



Literature review for SHELTER AFTER DISASTER

10 Guiding principles for shelter after disaster

The following ten guiding principles for shelter, settlement and reconstruction after disaster are published in 'Shelter after disaster: strategies for transitional settlement and reconstruction' (UN/OCHA, 2010). They are adapted from and are intended to be consistent with those published by the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) in 'Safer Homes, Stronger Communities: A Handbook for Reconstructing after Natural Disasters' (2010).



#1

Strategy

The joint strategy of government and the humanitarian agencies should involve and support the entire population affected by the disaster, fairly and equitably, responding to the different needs of different groups and with special attention given to those who are most vulnerable. The strategy and its implementation must be accountable and include ways of redressing grievances.



#2

Reconstruction

Safe reconstruction for those not displaced is just as important to emergency lifesaving as shelter and settlement is for the displaced. Immediate investment in safe reconstruction is often the best possible stimulus for recovery.

Support to reconstruction must begin immediately and not be postponed to a later phase. Home owners are sometimes a minority in affected communities and are often not the most vulnerable, so appropriate assistance must be offered to both tenants and occupants without legal tenure.



#3

Community

Invariably, the greatest effort in a response is made by those affected. They are also most aware of the most appropriate, sustainable and rapid routes to recovery. The greater the involvement of the community in implementation, therefore, the more effective and cost-efficient the response will be.



#4

DRR

The standard humanitarian objective in a strategy is to return the affected population to their state before the disaster, whilst managing their vulnerability to future hazards. The resources and capacities available usually mean that damaged buildings cannot be replaced like-for-like, so the strategy is used to agree prioritisation, manage the expectations of the affected population and reduce risk, to ensure that vulnerability to future disasters is not rebuilt.



#5

Coordination

Government and humanitarian coordination mechanisms must also be coordinated or integrated, to ensure that all stakeholders participate appropriately in the response, and to ensure that a single strategy is agreed and implemented across the affected area. Standards specific to the response and joint assessments should be agreed as part of that strategy. All contributions to the response are tracked, from remittances to re-structured loans, so that support is targeted appropriately and accountably, minimising opportunities for fraud..



#6

Development

Responses to major disasters should take years and not months and so transitional support should be offered to the affected population over this period, whilst reconstruction is completed. Aspects of responses, such as land rights, take time to be resolved and proceeding too rapidly may result in inequality, poor sustainability and greater vulnerability. The cultural priorities of the affected population must be considered along with damage and loss.



#7

Relocation

The few examples that exist of successful relocation involved considerable consultation and participation throughout the process, as well as a very high level of funding per capital, when compared with other options. Unsuccessful examples did not take into sufficient consideration livelihoods, support to communal service infrastructure and environmental impacts.



#8

Stakeholders

The single coordination mechanism and the up-to-date strategy facilitate the roles, capacities and priorities of stakeholders in reaching the humanitarian objective agreed, accountably. In addition to the affected population, government and humanitarian stakeholders, it is critical to achieve a productive collaboration with the private sector where the humanitarian objectives can be maintained.



#9

Assessment

Assessment and monitoring ensure that the strategy is updated continually to reflect diverse needs and capacities of the affected population, hazards, gaps and overlaps in response, possible future scenarios, damage and resources available.



#10

Sustainability

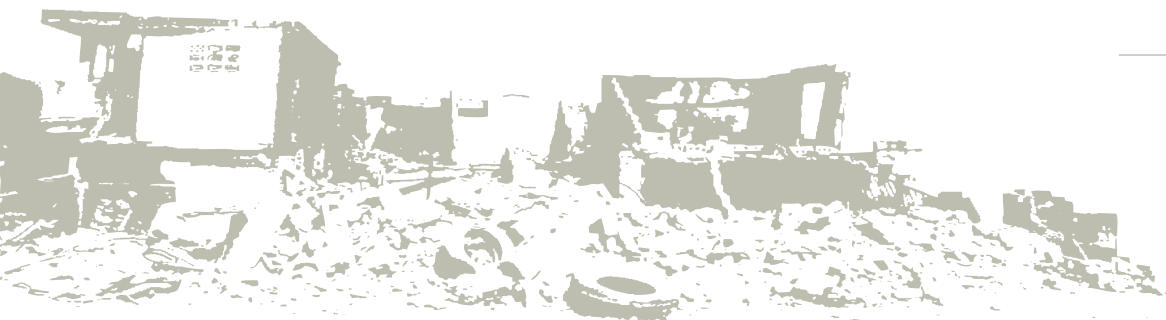
Shelter, settlement and reconstruction as well as all other aspects of recovery depend upon the livelihoods of communities, involving institutions, markets and the environment. The response must be informed constantly by monitoring the recovery of communities, in order to optimise the efficiency and sustainability of support offered to them.

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The publication is designed to inform a broad audience, including private sector actors, trade associations, governments, civil defence organisations, donors, IASC Clusters, United Nations bodies, International Organisations, members of the Red Cross Movement, Non Governmental Organisations, non profit organisations, academic and independent research bodies, and think tanks at a national, regional and global level.

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The executive editor was Shelter Centre Executive Director Tom Corsellis.

We are grateful to Jean Slick from Royal Roads University for her invaluable comments.

Preface

This literature review contains a list of references to publications and case studies relevant to the shelter component of humanitarian response following disasters. Literature was selected from the Shelter Centre online database that contained the terms 'Coordination', 'Strategy', 'Assessment' or, 'Implementation' in the title or abstract. The abstracts of these documents were then inspected to ascertain their relevance to humanitarian shelter responses.

The structure for this literature review is aligned with the key shelter sector guidelines 'Shelter after disaster: transitional settlement and reconstruction', published by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, funded by the UK Department for International Development, and facilitated by Shelter Centre. Key conclusions of these guidelines are included in the World Bank handbook 'Safer homes, stronger communities: a handbook for reconstructing after natural disasters' and the recently launched revision of the Sphere Standards.

The Introduction to this literature review provides an overview of shelter concepts, and presents the seven major strategic documents, guidelines and toolkits relating to shelter and disaster. The remainder of the document is organised into 4 chapters: Coordination, Strategy, Assessment, and implementation. Each of these chapters is structured in the same way:

- ▶ the overview section at the start of each chapter gives a brief introduction to the topic and explains the key issues to be considered. The information provided is adopted from 'Shelter after disaster: transitional settlement and reconstruction';
- ▶ relevant literature sources are then presented, with the main reference documents being listed before illustrative case studies;
- ▶ the document references are further organised chronologically and then alphabetically;
- ▶ each reference is numbered, and is presented by its title, author(s) and/or publisher(s), brief summary as provided by author(s) in the original document, selection of key terms, and the link to the on-line version of the original document in Shelter Centre Online Library (www.sheltercentre.org/library);
- ▶ the summary section following each chapter highlights the main points, and gives an indication of the current thinking within the shelter sector of humanitarian assistance.

This literature review refers extensively to the 'Shelter after disaster: transitional settlement and reconstruction' guidelines, and provides supplemental information, pertinent case studies and practical instructions. However, it should be stated that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has not in any way participated in the preparation of this publication.

The opinions expressed in referenced documents are the responsibility of their authors.

Introduction

The basic definition of shelter is a habitable covered space providing a secure and healthy environment with privacy and dignity for those residing in the dwelling.

In the context of shelter response to natural disasters, shelter is a process in addition to a product, as it entails an evolution from emergency shelter to durable solutions, which may take years. Affected populations are key stakeholders, as they have the best understanding of both what assistance they require and the resources available.

Governments, humanitarian organisations and donors often divide their shelter interventions into phases, for a range of internal and external reasons. However, it is recognized that sheltering activities of those impacted and displaced by a disaster is a fluid process, which begins immediately after the disaster strikes.

Sovereign governments have a responsibility to support their citizens with shelter, settlement and reconstruction needs following a disaster, and to provide a framework for sustainable interventions. However it is essential that all stakeholders participate and are represented in shelter planning and implementation, in order to ensure an equitable, timely and efficient response. In complex emergencies contexts, such as a disaster during an on-going conflict, no coordination structures may exist, creating further challenges in the response.

More detailed information on the role and responsibilities of stakeholders can be found within the literature review in this chapter, particularly Shelter After Disaster, reference number 2 and in chapter 1, references 8, 9 and 10. Below is a list of stakeholders involved in disaster response coordination activities.

To support improved coordination and response in disaster contexts, the cluster approach has emerged as the coordination system of the humanitarian community, and is managed by the inter Agency Standing Committee <http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/>, led by the United Nations office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs <http://www.unocha.org/>. The cluster approach aims to share expertise and improve accountability, cooperation and capacity across all sectors. This not only results in more effective coordination between stakeholders, but also the best use of humanitarian resources.

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Disaster events are caused by a complex interaction of factors, and while triggered by natural hazards, are influenced the social, economic and political conditions. Disaster events, and disaster risks are often caused by a combination of hazards. It is therefore essential that all shelter strategies integrate risk mitigation and management to maximise the safety of populations affected by natural disasters. This integrated approach between response and risk reduction has been incorporated in the Sphere Projects minimum standards for shelter disaster response, which listed as reference 5 in this chapter.

Improved coordination and the development of a single and shared strategy offers the best opportunity to integrate immediate response with long-term development, thereby not only alleviate the suffering of disaster affected populations, but also reducing their future disaster risk.

Shelter activities and reconstruction begin on day one.



Safer homes, stronger communities: a handbook for reconstructing after natural disasters

Abhas K. Jha, Jennifer E. Duyne Barenstein, Priscilla M. Phelps, Stephen Sena / The World Bank, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (2010)

Best practices in post-disaster housing and community reconstruction are constantly evolving. The frequency and severity of disasters are increasing and technology is changing how reconstruction is done. Reconstruction projects must increasingly focus on the need to reduce future risks by ensuring that what is rebuilt is safer and more disaster-resilient than what was there before. The expanding role of communities in managing community reconstruction, with financial and technical assistance from government, is another way reconstruction is changing.

Safer Homes, Stronger Communities is a handbook that gives policy makers and project managers the information they need to plan and carry out housing and community reconstruction projects that empower communities affected by disasters and that reduce their vulnerability to future disasters.

Designed to provide immediate guidance in post-disaster reconstruction settings, Safer Homes, Stronger Communities is a vital resource for policy makers and project managers, and for all practitioners involved in postdisaster housing and community reconstruction and disaster risk management.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/safer-homes-stronger-communities-handbook-reconstructing-after-natural-disasters>



Shelter after disaster

UK Department For International Development, Shelter Centre (2010)

At national level, central government and humanitarian coordinators agree how the shelter, settlement and reconstruction response will be coordinated, as a service gathering and disseminating information to link each affected area and every sector. As part of this coordination mechanism, a strategy is developed with the participation of the affected population. The strategy is reviewed and updated continually,

as more information becomes available and as the context to the response changes.

At programme level, local government and the humanitarian agencies implementing the response undertake ongoing assessments and monitoring of the affected population, capacities and resources in order to identify gaps and overlaps in response, to inform the strategy and to update progress against meeting the agreed objectives of the response. Implementation of the response is described through a series of 6 options for displaced populations and 6 options for non-displaced populations, each supported by a contribution of 18 assistance methods.

These guidelines offer governments, coordinators and implementer a framework for integrated shelter, settlement and reconstruction following natural disasters. This framework is intended to be consistent with government structures and humanitarian coordination mechanisms, supporting both in developing and implementing a single strategy, policy or plan for each response.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/shelter-after-disaster>

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Handbook for emergencies

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2007)

Answering people's urgent need for protection and humanitarian assistance anywhere in the world has been an essential part of UNHCR's work for the past three decades. Refugees and others fleeing conflict need help as quickly as possible, requiring a strong institutional commitment to emergency preparedness and response. The international community and public opinion expect aid workers to be on the scene and take action – and to do so swiftly.

This version includes a number of important revisions based on valuable inputs from the non-governmental organizations and other partners who are an integral part of our standby capacity. Updates include an emphasis on security awareness as an integral part of daily life and work in operations, along with important information on UNHCR and the military; a new chapter on combating HIV/AIDS in refugee situations; and how to prevent and respond to sexual and gender based violence in emergencies. The revised Handbook underscores the need to understand, from the very outset of an emergency,

the protection risks facing different members of a community and describes how to conduct participatory assessments with women, girls, boys and men to ensure adequate assistance and protection for all.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/handbook-emergencies-0>

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Transitional settlement: displaced populations

Tom Corsellis and Antonella Vitale / University of Cambridge Shelterproject, Shelter Centre, Oxfam GB (2005)

For the estimated 20 million refugees and 25 million internally displaced people worldwide, well-planned settlements can help to maximise their protection and security, and support them to minimise the spread of disease, manage natural resources sustainably, and maintain good relations with their hosts until durable solutions to their displacement are achieved. The result of extensive consultations with a wide range of specialist organisations, this book takes a holistic view of shelter for displaced populations, extending beyond refugee camps to consider support for all of the settlement and shelter options open to displaced people. It offers co-ordinators and specialists a common planning tool which links strategy, programmes, projects, and technical information for use in the field.

This book is published for co-ordinators and specialists working in humanitarian relief who are concerned with the transitional settlement needs of displaced people and their hosts. The guidelines in it offer a common planning tool for developing and implementing settlement and shelter strategies for people affected by conflict or natural disaster. They are intended primarily to help specialists to communicate with each other and understand one another. Other readers may also find them useful, because many aspects of transitional settlement work are relevant to policy making for displaced populations in general.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/transitional-settlement-displaced-populations-tdsp>

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Guiding principles on internal displacement

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2004)

The international community is confronted with the monumental task of ensuring protection for persons forcibly uprooted from their homes by violent conflicts, gross violations of human rights and other traumatic events, but who remain Within the borders of their own countries. Nearly always they suffer from severe deprivation, hardship and discrimination. It is to meet this challenge that the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement were developed.

The Principles identify the rights and guarantees relevant to protection of the internally displaced in all phases of displacement. They provide protection against arbitrary displacement, offer a basis for protection and assistance during displacement, and set forth guarantees for safe return, resettlement and reintegration. Although they do not constitute a binding instrument, these Principles reflect and are consistent with international human rights and humanitarian law and analogous refugee law.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guiding-principles-internal-displacement>



Humanitarian charter and minimum standards in disaster response

The Sphere Project (2004)

The Sphere Project is a programme of the Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response (SCHR) and InterAction with VOICE and ICVA. The project was launched in 1997 to develop a set of universal minimum standards in core areas of humanitarian assistance. The aim of the project is to improve the quality of assistance provided to people affected by disasters, and to enhance the accountability of the humanitarian system in disaster response.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/humanitarian-charter-and-minimum-standards-disaster-response>



Participation by crisis-affected populations in humanitarian action: a handbook for practitioners

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (2003)

Humanitarian agencies have long believed that increased consultation and participation of people affected by crises should improve accountability and the quality of humanitarian assistance. And more so, participation should acknowledge the right of affected populations to self-determination. The thinking, language and policy of humanitarianism have reflected these aspirations but, in reality, there has been little impact at field level.

The handbook provides the most detailed road map to date for field workers to find practical approaches for involving affected communities in the design and implementation of humanitarian interventions. It offers a deeper understanding of what participation in humanitarian assistance involves, and how in conflict situations and disaster environments participation can be given a more prominent role.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/participation-crisis-affected-populations-humanitarian-action-practitioners-handbook>

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Coordination

The purpose of disaster coordination efforts are to develop a single sector strategy as well as develop monitoring mechanisms to identify, respond and adapt to changing settlement and reconstruction needs. A collective decision-making and planning process helps to avoid gaps, overlaps and duplication of effort. And importantly, this type of process helps to ensuring that the affected population plays a key role in plans that are developed.

While governments and their task forces are ultimately responsible for the management of the response within their territory, a coordinating agency may be appointed to lead the response. The coordination body is responsible for developing and integrating a common shelter strategy, and ensuring that this is part of the larger disaster response coordination framework. The coordinating agency should enable the representation and the flow of information between government, affected population, humanitarian agencies and donors, and support accountability of all stakeholders. Where military support is requested, it should be undertaken only in support of, and not parallel to, the primary humanitarian coordination mechanism. Government policy is explored in references 8 and 9 in this section.

There are three primary coordination groups: the strategic advisory group, the technical working group and the information management group. Coordination of the development of a shelter response strategy should be inclusive, accountable and transparent, and must ensure that the voices of all stakeholders are represented in the decision making progress. Guidance on coordination can be found in references 14 and 15 in this section. Information for cluster leads can be found in references 13, 16 and 17.

Participation of disaster affected populations in the planning, implementation and monitoring process ensures that any form of assistance or support is aligned with needs, and will achieve the desired goals. International humanitarian organizations, such as the UN or the IRC Movement, have expertise in participatory processes, and their activities are importantly complemented by various local NGOs that understand the local context, and can create links to ongoing development projects. Guidance on participation is found in section 1.1.

Information management is essential to the coordination process and ensures that everyone is working with the same data; a two-way flow of information flow is pivotal for the changing needs in post-disaster situations. Information management is described in the documents in section 1.4.

A national government, while having primary responsibility for shelter assistance following a disaster, may request international financial assistance. The amount of funding available is one factor that influences the type of shelter strategy developed. Most international humanitarian assistance is directed to emergency and transitional shelter activities, rather than reconstruction; this varies by disaster and context. Assessments guide fundraising activities..

1.1 

Participation

Participation: ensure all stakeholders are involved and represented

Working together ensures that the affected population, government and all other stakeholders are included in the decision making process. Active and potentially active partners should be identified so that an appropriate shelter strategy, plan of action or policy can be developed.



Shelter After Disaster refers to six texts (guide 8 - 13) on stakeholder involvement and draws upon case studies from Indonesia (1) and Sri Lanka (2).

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The role of national governments in international humanitarian response to disasters - meeting background paper

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP) (2010)

Key terms: stakeholders; national government

This background paper explores the relationships between international humanitarian actors and national governments in disaster-affected countries and how these are shifting in response to changes both in national capacities and in the causes of crisis and vulnerability. This is a relevant issue for two reasons. First, because governments are increasingly asserting their sovereignty in relation to disaster relief. And second, because despite their commitments to support the host government, recent disaster responses have demonstrated the continuing failure of international systems to work effectively with national authorities.

PDF document can be downloaded from: <http://sheltercentre.org/library/role-national-governments-international-humanitarian-response-disasters>

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Towards good humanitarian government: the role of the affected state in disaster response - Humanitarian Policy Group report

Paul Harvey / Humanitarian Policy Group & Overseas Development Institute (2009)

Key terms: stakeholders; affected state; donor government; financial institution; military; funding mechanism

Questions about how international aid agencies should relate to host governments, the operational challenges of commitments to independence and neutrality and the terms of principled engagement have all been neglected. International humanitarian agencies rarely have a thorough map of the capacities of the states in which they work, nor typically do they understand how these capacities might be supported. As a result, agencies often simply assume that state structures have been overwhelmed, and that external assistance is therefore justified. Where are the principles of good humanitarian government to complement Sphere and Good Humanitarian Donorship? This report argues that we need to know more about how states respond to emergencies, and how international humanitarian actors can better support states in that response.

PDF document can be downloaded from: <http://sheltercentre.org/library/towards-good-humanitarian-government-role-affected-state-disaster-response>

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Business engagement in humanitarian relief: key trends and policy implications - study commissioned by the Overseas Development Institute

Andrea Binder and Jan Martin Witte / Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG) (2007)

Key terms: stakeholders; private sector; case studies

This paper was commissioned by the Humanitarian Policy Group (HPG). It is part of a broader HPG study into the role of the private sector in support of humanitarian action. This paper contributes by exploring systematically the new roles companies are playing in humanitarian action. It assesses the forms such engagement is taking, with a particular focus on partnerships, and explores the underlying motivations for engaging in new ways. It also addresses whether new forms of corporate engagement and new donor funding patterns represent potential competition to humanitarian actors, and how this impacts on humanitarian principles.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/business-engagement-humanitarian-relief-key-trends-and-policy-implications>

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Guiding principles for public-private collaboration for humanitarian action

World Economic Forum and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2007)

Key terms:
 stakeholders;
 private-public
 collaboration;
 guiding
 principles

Over the past three years, the private sector has shown increasing interest in supporting humanitarian operations worldwide. Given this growing engagement, the World Economic Forum and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) have devised the following set of principles to guide public-private collaboration for humanitarian action. These principles are meant to serve as a guide to the private sector and the humanitarian community, with an emphasis on communicating key humanitarian principles as well as integrating elements of lessons learnt from previous private sector engagement. These principles are the product of broad consultations with the humanitarian community and the private sector, though they are not meant to supersede or replace agency and sector specific guidelines and standards.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guiding-principles-public-private-collaboration-humanitarian-action>

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Guidelines on the use of foreign military and civil defence assets in disaster relief - "Oslo guidelines"

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2006)

Key terms:
 stakeholders;
 military

The unprecedented deployment in 2005 of military forces and assets in support of humanitarian response to natural disasters, following an increasing trend over the past years, confirmed the need to update the 1994 "Oslo Guidelines". The Consultative Group on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets (MCDA), at its annual meeting in December 2005, tasked OCHA's Civil-Military Coordination Section (CMCS) with this facelift, to reflect current terminology and organizational changes, following a layout similar to the 2003 "Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets to Support United Nations Humanitarian Activities in Complex Emergencies" ("MCDA Guidelines").

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-use-foreign-military-and-civil-defence-assets-disaster-relief-oslo-guidelines>

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Links between relief, rehabilitation and development in the tsunami response - Policy study

Hugh Goyder, with Cowan Coventry, Jerry Adams, Tania Kaiser, Suzanne Williams, & Ian Smillie / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
 stakeholders;
 multilateral
 agencies;
 government
 agencies;
 academia;
 NGOs; agencies
 involved in relief

This is a study of agency policies in relation to LRRD and their operationalisation following the Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26 2004. It was commissioned by Sida as one of 6 different thematic evaluations organized by the Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (TEC). The objective of the study is 'to find out what ideas and practices regarding LRRD governed operations and roles of the various actors, and to assess what consequences those ideas, practices, and subsequent actions had or may have for the affected population.' This study focuses on the policy issues, and is complemented by two further country studies on LRRD undertaken by Channel Research.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/links-between-relief-rehabilitation-and-development-tsunami-response-policy-study>

case
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Links between relief, rehabilitation and development in the tsunami response - Indonesia case study

Mr Emery Brusset, Dr Wartini Pramana, Ms Anne Davies, Mr Yashwant Deshmukh, Ms Susanne B. Pedersen / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
 stakeholders;
 affected
 population;
 evaluation;
 case study

The theoretical notion of linkages between different forms of aid is a remote concept for most people, with little bearing on how they see their needs being met in practice. The evaluation consequently reviews performance from their point of view, that is, of the 'gaps' (needs not met) and 'rifts' (in the fabric of society, where harmful effects arise from poor linkages) of the combined action of emergency aid, governance support (in particular human rights), development aid, and conflict resolution, in the tsunami-affected areas of Aceh.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/links-between-relief-rehabilitation-and-development-tsunami-response-indonesia-case-study>

case study
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Links between relief, rehabilitation and development in the tsunami response - Sri Lanka case study

Björn Ternström, Ellen Girard-Barclay, Darini Rajasingham, Yashwant Deshmukh, Susanne B. Pedersen / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
stakeholders;
affected
population;
evaluation;
case study

The Sri Lanka Case Study, as one component of the Evaluation of Linking Relief to Rehabilitation and Development (LRRD) in tsunami interventions, attempts to identify some of the successes and challenges faced by those in need, and to ascertain to what degree the initiatives for relief, rehabilitation and development taken by the population were enhanced or hindered by actions taken by outsiders.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/links-between-relief-rehabilitation-and-development-tsunami-response-sri-lanka-case-study>

1.2
Framework

Framework: agreeing a structure for coordination

A coordination framework is a structure for collaboration that integrates and supports participation using a variety of methods, including committees, meetings, technical working groups and information management support. The coordination framework should take account of national as well as sub-national levels throughout the affected area, in order to facilitate decision-making processes and information sharing.



Shelter After Disaster refers to framework guidelines from the Emergency Shelter Cluster (14) and examples from case studies done in Indonesia (3), the Maldives (4) and Sri-Lanka (5).

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Emergency shelter cluster: key things to know

Emergency Shelter cluster (2011)

Key terms:
stakeholders;
cluster lead;
agencies
involved;
coordination
framework

UNHCR leads the Emergency Shelter Cluster (ESC) in the area of conflict generated IDPs while IFRC is convener of the Emergency Shelter Cluster in disaster situations. At the global level, the Emergency Shelter Cluster is co-chaired by UNHCR and IFRC.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/emergency-shelter-cluster-key-things-know>

case study
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Coordination of international humanitarian assistance in tsunami-affected countries: evaluation findings - Indonesia

Jon Bennett, Clare Harkin, Stanley Samarasinghe / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
stakeholders;
evaluation;
coordination
framework

The following report is replete with 'problems' of coordination outweighing the success stories. Some of these are an inevitable: in no emergency in modern times have so many well-funded agencies from so many countries descended on one area of the world in such a short space of time. An evaluative challenge is to distinguish between chaos, compassion and the kind of institutional learning that might emerge from the overall experience. Coordination (in the humanitarian world) is a voluntary exercise whose value is appreciated and exercised more readily by experienced agencies. Crucially, coordination is also a question of comparative advantage. Despite its dedicated mandate, UN-OCHA must prove its worth, particularly in the acute emergency phase, otherwise it will simply be ignored or superseded by more capable non-governmental or bilateral agencies.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/coordination-international-humanitarian-assistance-tsunami-affected-countries-evaluation-f-1>

case study
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Coordination of international humanitarian assistance in tsunami-affected countries: evaluation findings - The Maldives

Jon Bennett, Clare Harkin, Stanley Samarasinghe / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
stakeholders;
evaluation;
coordination
framework

The majority of the findings are on institutional practices, how these unfolded in the tsunami response, and what lessons the international community can learn from these. The evaluation was undertaken at a time when the transition from relief to development was in the early stages. Inevitably, then, the weight of analysis is on the emergency phase. Timelines as such are arbitrary, but the transition 'boundary' presents challenges for government and agencies alike; activities become much

more compartmentalised and maintaining a holistic overview of needs is more difficult as the focus of individual agencies is increasingly sectoral.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/coordination-international-humanitarian-assistance-tsunami-affected-countries-evaluation-f-0>

case study
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Coordination of international humanitarian assistance in tsunami-affected countries: evaluation findings - Sri Lanka

Jon Bennett, William Bertrand, Clare Harkin, Stanley Samarasinghe, Hemantha Wickramatillake / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
stakeholders;
evaluation;
coordination
framework;
case study

In our review of coordination of the Tsunami response in Sri Lanka, we will consider those elements and interventions that fostered disaster management as appropriately coordinated ones. The central report defines coordination as “a process, the orchestration of effort towards appropriate, effective, efficient and coherent delivery of humanitarian services.” During the immediate response phase following a large-scale disaster, coordination is generally the most difficult and intense due to the sudden presence of many new actors and the weakened communications infrastructure (at least initially). Recovery begins towards the end of the response period, and involves transitional housing and minimal basic infrastructural repairs necessary to support the population. The time associated with recovery is variable as it depends on the speed and complexity of activity. The final phase is rehabilitation, characterized by the construction of permanent housing, a return to productive livelihood and income-generating activities. This return to a normal state is again a moving target in that it often exposes and amplifies problems of development and population vulnerability that existed before the disaster.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/links-between-relief-rehabilitation-and-development-tsunami-response-sri-lanka-case-study>

1.3
Activities

Activities: establish and operate the shelter sector coordination body

The shelter sector coordination body is usually hosted by a single appointed sector lead agency, which may have committed additionally to act as a provider of last resort, offering support when other sector partners are unable to do so. It is responsible for bringing together shelter sector stakeholders and agreeing and implementing a common shelter strategy, integrated within a wider coordination framework.



Shelter After Disaster refers to four texts (15, 16, 17, 18) on establishing a sector coordination body.

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Clusterwise

James Shepherd-Barron (2009)

Key terms:
coordination
management;
cluster
approach;
cluster strategy;
resource
allocation

This booklet was edited by James Shepherd-Barron, founder of ‘clustercoordination.org’, as a practical guide for those involved with Clusters in the field. It consists of a series of action-oriented tips for Cluster Coordinators and members of Clusters to consider before, during, and after the activation of the Cluster Approach. It complements ‘official’ tools and guidelines coming out of the formal IASC process, which can be found on the UN’s official ‘www.oneresponse.info’ web platform.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/clusterwise>

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Guidance for humanitarian country teams

Inter-Agency standing Committee Working Group (2009)

Key terms:
coordination
bodies;
coordination
structure

The Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator (HC), is the centre-piece of the new humanitarian coordination architecture established by Humanitarian Reform. The HCT is composed of organisations that undertake humanitarian action in-country and that commit to participate in coordination arrangements. Its objective is to ensure that the activities of such organisations are coordinated, and that humanitarian action in-country is principled, timely, effective and efficient, and contributes to longer-term recovery. The overall purpose is to alleviate human suffering and protect the lives, livelihoods and dignity of populations in need.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidance-humanitarian-country-teams>

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Operational guidance on designating sector/cluster leads in major new emergencies

Inter-Agency standing Committee (2007)

Key terms:
cluster leads;
cluster
approach;
guidance

The aim of the cluster approach is to strengthen humanitarian response by ensuring high standards of predictability, accountability and partnership in all sectors or areas of activity. The IASC has agreed that the cluster approach should be used in all contingency planning for major new emergencies; in all responses to major new emergencies; and eventually in all countries with Humanitarian Coordinators (HCs). In a major new emergency, the cluster approach requires that sector/cluster leads be designated at the earliest possible opportunity in order to ensure an adequate response.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/iasc-operational-guidance-designating-sectorcluster-leads-major-new-emergencies>

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PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/iasc-operational-guidance-designating-sectorcluster-leads-major-new-emergencies>

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Operational guidance on designating sector/cluster leads in ongoing emergencies

Inter-Agency standing Committee (2007)

Key terms:
cluster leads;
cluster
approach;
guidance

The aim of the cluster approach is to strengthen humanitarian response by ensuring high standards of predictability, accountability and partnership in all sectors or areas of activity. In ongoing emergencies, the IASC has agreed that introduction of the cluster approach should be a field-driven process, to ensure full ownership by humanitarian actors in the countries concerned.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/iasc-operational-guidance-designating-sectorcluster-leads-ongoing-emergencies>

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Guidance note on using the cluster approach to strengthen humanitarian response

Inter-Agency standing Committee (2006)

Key terms:
cluster leads;
cluster
approach;
guidance

In international responses to humanitarian crises, some sectors have in the past benefited from having clearly mandated lead agencies, while others have not. This has repeatedly led to ad hoc, unpredictable humanitarian responses, with inevitable capacity and response gaps in some areas. Recognizing this, in September 2005 the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) agreed to designate global “cluster leads” – specifically for humanitarian emergencies – in nine sectors or areas of activity. The IASC Principals also agreed that the cluster approach should be applied, with some flexibility, at the country level.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidance-note-using-cluster-approach-strengthen-humanitarian-response>

1.4 
Information

Information: manage information to assist response monitoring and to support making

The management of information carried out in support of coordination processes ensures that everyone is working with the same or complementary information and baseline data, such as who in the population is affected and where they are. Properly collected and managed information underpins the shelter strategy and furthermore benefits the emergency response, recovery, development and disaster preparedness activities.



Two texts (20, 21) are used by Shelter After Disaster as guidelines for information management.

Operational guidance on responsibilities of cluster/sector leads & OCHA in information management

Inter-Agency standing Committee (2006)

Key terms:
information
management
systems

The following Operational Guidance is intended for use at the country level to help Cluster/Sector leads, OCHA and humanitarian partners ensure that relevant information related to a humanitarian emergency is provided to the right person at the right time in a usable form to facilitate situational understanding and decision-making. Cluster/Sector leads and OCHA at the country level should aim to ensure that information management (IM) activities support national information systems, standards, build local capacities and maintain appropriate links with relevant Government, State and local authorities. Cluster/Sector leads and OCHA should thus seek to strengthen, not replace or diminish national efforts including those of institutions not part of the Cluster or Government.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/operational-guidance-responsibilities-clustersector-leads-and-ocha-information-management>

Guidelines for OCHA field information management

Inter-Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2006)

Key terms:
information
management;
information
dissemination;
coordination

Effective information management underpins the work of OCHA, particularly its coordination and advocacy functions. For example, strategic and operational decision making and prioritization require accurate and timely information; information concerning the needs of affected populations and the capacities and locations of humanitarian actors is critical for coordination. Quantifiable information on the conditions and needs of affected populations – collected and updated on a regular basis and in a consistent format – is required for analysis. Humanitarian advocacy efforts must be based on objective, verifiable and reliable information.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-ocha-field-information-management>

**Strategy: synthesise information to facilitate strategic planning**

The role of coordination is to provide a service to stakeholders which allows them to draw on common analysis of the disaster situation in order to draft a single, coherent shelter strategy that will be continually updated to reflect the changing needs, capacities and resources of the affected populations and stakeholders.



Shelter After Disaster draws upon a case study from after the Indian Ocean Tsunami (6) to illustrate a strategic planning response.

**Coordination of international humanitarian assistance in tsunami-affected countries**

Jon Bennett, William, Bertrand, Clare Harkin, Stanley Samarasinghe, Hemantha Wickramatillake / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
evaluation;
strategic
planning

This evaluation covers three countries: Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, with some additional observations from Thailand. The analysis, drawn from a working definition of coordination and its systems and tools, embodies eight themes: 1) leadership and management of representative bodies; 2) negotiation and maintenance of a serviceable framework with host political authorities; 3) promotion of a functional division of labour (including civil–military); 4) strategic planning; 5) mobilisation of resources for integrated programming; 6) gathering data and managing information; 7) accountability (including accountability to recipient populations); and 8) joint advocacy.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/coordination-international-humanitarian-assistance-tsunami-affected-countries>

The documents listed in this chapter provide adequate information on the roles of different stakeholders in humanitarian emergency response operations.

Emphasis is naturally given to the roles and responsibilities of the affected states' national governments, and their affected populations, as well as different stakeholders within the international humanitarian community, including international organisations and NGOs. Roles and responsibilities of donors and international financial organisations are well explained.

More recently, information has been developed to define roles of the private sector, specifically public-private coordination.

Information on coordination with military actors is basic, but sufficient, and reflects the state of discussion of military engagement in humanitarian operations.

The importance and role of coordination in disaster response is thoroughly explained, and various examples of coordination frameworks are given in the documents referenced in this chapter. More information and examples of this are available in other documents listed in the rest of the publication.

Guidance is provided on the establishment of a coordination body and country teams, with a particular focus on the cluster approach. Additionally, specific information on the emergency shelter cluster is presented.

Information management is extensively covered through listed publications by the leading organisation in the field: the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

Examples of coordination of international humanitarian assistance, and the effects of coordination on strategic planning, are well presented in the evaluation of response for Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Thailand after the tsunami in 2004.



Strategy

The development of a shelter strategy begins in the first days after disaster. The strategy is further developed as more information becomes available, and resources become mobilised to support planning and coordination activities. A shelter strategy must be integrated with the larger response strategy, and should address immediate shelter needs, longer-term reconstruction goals, and reduce future disaster risk.

The planning process should be led by a strategic advisory group. Stakeholders from all geographically affected areas should be represented in initial coordination meetings or consulted in an alternate way. It is essential that the needs and voices of marginalised populations and vulnerable groups be included in the strategy development process. More information about effective planning can be found in reference 39.

The strategy is informed by needs analysis, and will shape the funding appeals; anticipated financial resources will influence the strategy developed. The strategy identifies stakeholders' roles including coordination and participation; defines objectives and key indicators against which programme effectiveness can be measured; establishes an implementation schedule and monitoring mechanisms; and prescribes a handover policy. An example of a shelter strategy can be found in case study 9. The means to consolidate information needed for a coordinated shelter strategy can be found in reference 31.

All shelter activities must assess and address land issues, which will vary by disaster and context. Land issues influence the speed of recovery from a disaster. Land issues can significantly influence the need for and type of temporary shelter strategy. An example of the issue of land rights can be found in case study 7. A guide for temporary settlement can be found in reference 41.

The humanitarian sector's role is not only to support recovery from the disaster, and must include a focus on future risk reduction. Risk reduction activities can occur at local, regional and national levels. At a local level, community training can be provided to support construction practices to enhance the safety of dwellings. Disasters also provide the opportunity to enhance appropriate legislation. Manuals and studies on legal issues after a disaster can be found in references 22 and 24. More information about risk reduction can be found in reference

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34 and further information about building back better can be found in reference 40.

A shelter strategy is developed in stages over time. The first version of the sector strategy should describe the objectives and the common approach. The second version should be reviewed by government and public, and integrate inter-sector issues. Any further versions should be developed through consultation and feedback. The strategy must be communicated to the affected population, and this communication must be consistent; communication is a two-way process, and the response to the strategy must be monitored. Case study 8 provides an example of the development of shelter strategy.

Unlike the strategy, programme and project plans are developed by individual agencies; efforts should be made to ensure that the plans complement each other and therefore ensure a coordinated response in line with the shelter strategy objectives.

2.1 Participation

Participation: engage stakeholders to develop a strategy

Participation in the first few days of a response may be limited, yet an initial strategy, plan of action or policy should be formed, using any available capacity. Once this system is established, effort should be made to ensure all other stakeholders are involved and the strategy is kept up-to-date.



Guidelines on participation referenced in Shelter After Disaster are included below.

guide 22



Guidelines for the domestic facilitation and regulation of international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2007)

Key terms: stakeholders; roles; responsibilities; legal framework; guidelines

These Guidelines are non-binding. While it is hoped that States will make use of them to strengthen their laws, policies and/or procedures related to international disaster response, as appropriate, the Guidelines do not have a direct effect on any existing rights or obligations under domestic law.

Their purpose is to contribute to national legal preparedness by providing guidance to States interested in improving their

domestic legal, policy and institutional frameworks concerning international disaster relief and initial recovery assistance.

While affirming the principal role of domestic authorities and actors, they recommend minimum legal facilities to be provided to assisting States and to assisting humanitarian organizations that are willing and able to comply with minimum standards of coordination, quality and accountability.

PDF document can be downloaded from: <http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-domestic-facilitation-and-regulation-international-disaster-relief-and-initial-re>

2.2 Planning

Planning: coordinate sector strategy, programme and project plans

These guidelines describe planning happening at three levels: strategic, programme and project. While the objectives of each plan may differ depending on the level at which it is created, all plans at all levels should feed into one another in order to ensure a coordinated response and avoid overlaps or gaps appearing.



Shelter After Disaster refers to seven guidelines on planning (23 - 29). It also draws upon a case study from Aceh (7).

guide 23



International law and standards applicable in natural disaster situations

Erica Harper / International Development Law Organization (2009)

Key terms: international law; standards

This Manual considers international laws, standards and policies pertaining to five areas relevant to rehabilitation following a natural disaster: human rights, the rights of vulnerable groups, the rights of children, land and property management, and anti-corruption/funds management. The Manual aims to: provide detailed information on provisions contained in treaty-based law that are relevant to disaster response, the responsibilities such provisions place on state and humanitarian actors, and tools for encouraging and assisting states to act in accordance with their international obligations; provide operational and policy guidance to support the development of rights-based approaches to post-disaster rehabilitation and tools to enable actors to integrate international protection standards into

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humanitarian programs; improve understanding of the rights and vulnerabilities of different groups affected by natural disasters, and assist humanitarian actors in responding to gaps in the legal protection framework and to primary protection risks; provide practical inspiration for ways in which to undertake rehabilitation in accordance with international standards by examining the experiences of other agencies operating in post-natural disaster environments; and provide information and tools that can be used for advocacy or lobbying purposes, or to assist in the development or reform of national legal and regulatory frameworks.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/international-law-and-standards-applicable-natural-disaster-situations>

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Contingency planning and humanitarian action: a review of practice

Richard Choularton / Humanitarian Policy Group (2007)

Key terms:
Contingency planning;
planning process;
response strategy;
implementation plan

Humanitarians are constantly challenged by crises that rapidly materialise and just as rapidly change. Consequently, how prepared they are to respond to a crisis will often mean the difference between life and death for those affected. In the wake of back-to-back emergencies in Kosovo, East Timor, Mozambique and Central America in the late 1990s, humanitarian organisations have taken significant steps to improve, systematize and professionalise their emergency preparedness. Contingency planning has emerged as a key tool to ensure that agencies are as ready as they can be to respond to natural disasters, conflicts and other crises around the world.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/contingency-planning-and-humanitarian-action-review-practice>

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Law and legal issues in international disaster response: a desk study

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2007)

Key terms:
legal issues;
international law

Though little discussed, legal barriers can be as obstructive to effective international disaster relief operations as high winds or washed-out roads. At the same time, the absence of regulation where it is needed can contribute to a response

that is uncoordinated, wasteful, and inadequately respectful to beneficiaries and domestic relief actors. These problems often lead to disaster-affected communities not receiving the right aid at the right time, delivered in the right way. This desk study compiles the findings of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent's research and consultations with stakeholders over the last few years about existing legal frameworks and regulatory problems in international disaster response. It draws on over two dozen legal and operational case studies, a wide-ranging global survey of major stakeholders, and the discussions in a series of formal regional forums including high level representatives of governments, National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, UN agencies, NGOs and other interested parties.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/law-and-legal-issues-international-disaster-response-desk-study-0>

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The international community's funding of the tsunami emergency and relief: analysis of overall funding flows - background paper

Tony German, Judith Randel, Tasneem Mowjee, Lydia Baker / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
funding flows;
funding sources
case study

The purpose of this overview on funding flows for the Tsunami is to add value to what is already known. There are a many selective reports on funding flows focusing on one group of donors, or agencies or NGOs which illustrate different parts of the funding picture. In addition, there are some global reports which provide estimates of total funding. This paper will seek to add value by trying to give data which is as reliable as possible and which covers all sources of funding. This requires a painstaking build up of data from a variety of original sources. These can then be validated against each other to minimise the risks of double counting and maximise the prospects of capturing as much of the funding flowing to Tsunami victims as possible.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/international-community-s-funding-tsunami-emergency-and-relief-analysis-overall-funding-flow>

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Hyogo framework for action 2005-2015: building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (2005)

Key terms:
disaster risk
reduction; hyogo
framework

The World Conference on Disaster Reduction was held from 18 to 22 January 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo, Japan, and adopted the present Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (here after referred to as the “Framework for Action”). The Conference provided a unique opportunity to promote a strategic and systematic approach to reducing vulnerabilities and risks to hazards. It underscored the need for, and identified ways of, building the resilience of nations and communities to disasters.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/hyogo-framework-action-hfa-2005-2015-building-resilience-nations-and-communities-disaster>



The Pinheiro Principles: United Nations principles on housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions (2005)

Key terms:
housing rights;
Pinheiro
principles;
standards

This booklet contains the full text of an important new international standard which outlines the rights of refugees and displaced persons to return not only to their countries when they see fit to do so, but to their original homes and lands as well. The Pinheiro Principles are the culmination of more than a decade of international and local activities in support of the emerging right to housing and property restitution as a core remedy to displacement.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/pinheiro-principles>



Framework for action for the implementation of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)

Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (2001)

Key terms:
framework;
international

While natural hazards will continue to occur, human action can either increase or reduce the vulnerability of societies to these hazards and related technological and environmental disasters by focusing on socio-economic factors determining

strategy;
disaster
reduction

such vulnerability.

The Framework for Action embodied in this document reflects the conceptual underpinnings of the ISDR and identifies the supporting institutional arrangements based on resolutions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and General Assembly, as well as on decisions of the Inter-Agency Task Force for Disaster Reduction (IATF).

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/framework-action-isdr>



The tsunami two years on: land rights in Aceh

Tony German, Judith Randel, Tasneem Mowjee, Lydia Baker / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
land rights

Two years on from the tsunami, rebuilding homes and rehousing the landless are two of the most important tasks facing Aceh. Land-rights issues – the question of who owns what land – must be solved if Acehnese society is to be rebuilt on a secure footing. Without clear land rights, people who are rebuilding run the risk that a third party could come forward and claim rightful ownership of a plot of land.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/tsunami-two-years-land-rights-aceh>



Template: base the structure of the strategy upon a document template

All strategies contain similar information. Structuring this information consistently may assist in coordination by

- ▶ avoiding gaps and overlaps;
- ▶ offering predictability;
- ▶ offering consistency between planning at strategic, programme and project levels; and
- ▶ aiding inter-sectoral coordination and consistency between different stakeholders.



Shelter After Disaster refers to 11 guidelines (30-40) for structuring strategies and uses two case studies (8,9) from Haiti and Sri Lanka respectively to illustrate this point.

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From code to practice

United Nations Centre for Regional Development (2009)

Key terms:
building codes;
disaster
reduction; case
studies

This paper illustrates the importance of institutional arrangements in terms of (earthquake) disaster preparedness alongside with guidelines for construction of non-engineered buildings, which is widely used in seismic countries particularly in India. Outlining the comprehensive action to be taken for safer non-engineered buildings, the paper explains the role of experts and governments to complete the duties. In the list of works, the author focuses more on long term action, by employing legal and educational strategies; as it is essential for minimising the loss which could be happened with the earthquakes in the future to see consolidated efforts of experts as well as governments.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/code-practice-challenges-building-code-implementation-and-further-direction-housing-earthquake>

Housing and property restitution for refugees and displaced persons: implementing the 'Pinheiro Principles'

Food and Agriculture Organization, Norwegian Refugee Council, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, UN-HABITAT, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2007)

Key terms:
Pinheiro
principles;
housing rights

Over the past several decades, inter-governmental agencies, government officials, United Nations and NGO field staff and others working in protection or support capacities with refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) have become increasingly involved in efforts to secure durable and rights-based solutions to all forms of displacement based on the principle of voluntary repatriation. In more recent years, the idea of voluntary repatriation and return have expanded into concepts involving not simply the return to one's country for refugees or one's city or region for IDPs, but the return to and re-assertion of control over one's original home, land or property; the process of housing and property restitution.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/housing-and-property-restitution-refugees-and-displaced-persons-implementing-pinheiro-principles>

Needs analysis framework

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2007)

Key terms:
needs
analysis; tools;
implementation
plan; CAP

The Needs Analysis Framework is a tool to help Humanitarian Coordinators and IASC Country Teams organise and present existing information on humanitarian needs in a coherent and consistent manner. This will help strengthen the analysis of humanitarian need.

The availability of consolidated information on humanitarian requirements will enable Humanitarian Coordinators and IASC Country Teams to identify gaps in information, and to agree on whether to expand or repeat assessments. This in turn will help develop strategies and programmes that focus on addressing prioritised needs.

Humanitarian Coordinators and IASC Country Teams should use the framework as a blueprint to consolidate existing needs assessments and analyse them prior to developing a CHAP.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/needs-analysis-framework-strengthening-analysis-and-presentation-humanitarian-needs-cap>

Inter-agency contingency planning guidelines for humanitarian assistance

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2007)

Key terms:
contingency
planning;
guidelines;
planning
process

The following guidelines seek to provide practical guidance for Humanitarian Country Teams, composed of UN Agencies and other International Organizations, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement¹ and NGO representatives, who are embarking on a process of inter-agency contingency planning in order to increase their level of preparedness and enhance their ability to respond to emergencies.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/iasc-contingency-planning-guidelines-humanitarian-assistance>

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Guidelines for Flash Appeals

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2006)

Key terms:
flash appeals;
strategic
planning; early
response;
coordination

Flash appeals present an early strategic response plan and specific projects within 5-7 days of the emergency's onset. If major uncertainty exists about the evolution of the crisis, the appeal presents the most likely scenarios and the response strategy for each. Flash appeals are usually revised about a month later, when more information is available. They may serve as the basis for funding applications to the CERF (among other donors): the RC/HC indicates which appeal projects the CERF should fund. The RC/HC, supported by OCHA, is responsible for producing the appeal. Organisations that have been asked to lead and coordinate the response within a given sector or area of activity (i.e. cluster or sector leads) have a key role: working with all relevant partners to develop the response plans and vet project proposals for inclusion in the appeal. Flash appeals should include priority projects from all key implementing agencies on the ground, including NGOs.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-flash-appeals>



Operational framework for integrating risk reduction

Christine Wamsler / Benfield Hazard Research Centre/Lund University (2006)

Key terms:
risk reduction;
operational
framework

Whilst the need to integrate risk reduction (RR) with development aid in order to achieve sustainable poverty reduction is acknowledged amongst donors, experts and practitioners, little work has been undertaken to identify how this could be achieved. Related operational tools are urgently required. The current operational framework provides general guidance for all types of implementing development aid organisations, working in human settlements, for the integration of RR within their 'normal' work. It is usable within a variety of cultural and geographical contexts and it is relevant to all types of natural hazards and disasters. In addition, the framework offers more specific and detailed guidance for organisations engaging in social housing and settlement planning by providing sector-specific guidelines and reference activities.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/operational-framework-integrating-risk-reduction-aid-organisations-working-human-settlement>



International human rights standards on post-disaster resettlement and rehabilitation

Bikram Jeet Batra, Shivani Chaudhry / Habitat International Coalition, People's Movement for Human Rights Learning (2005)

Key terms:
human rights;
standards

Our commitment to achieving human rights as a comprehensive framework challenges us to respond with vision and clarity in times of great loss. The Asian tsunami of 2004 has left more than a million people in need of adequate supplies of food, medicine and massive reconstruction of infrastructure. It is estimated that long-term resettlement and rehabilitation work will continue for another 18 months and beyond. As aid comes in from various organisations and governments throughout the world, we all must recognise that resettlement and rehabilitation can be most effective only when human rights standards are met and the survivors themselves are given the opportunity to transform their lives.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/international-human-rights-standards-post-disaster-resettlement-and-rehabilitation>



Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction: a tool for development organizations

Tearfund (2005)

Key terms:
strategy;
disaster risk
reduction; tools;
targets and
indicators

This paper offers a practical tool to help development organisations mainstream disaster risk reduction into their relief and development planning and programming. Performance targets and indicators (pages 10–15) are presented to help organisations assess, measure and monitor their progress with mainstreaming. The targets/indicators cover six key areas of organisations' work. The paper also identifies a series of factors that influence the pace of mainstreaming. This tool is significant because, while there is increasing recognition among donors and other organisations of the need to mainstream risk reduction, very little work has yet been undertaken to identify how this could be done.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/mainstreaming-disaster-risk-reduction-tool-development-organisations>

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Monitoring housing rights

UN-HABITAT, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (2003)

Key terms:
monitoring;
indicators;
housing rights

This fifth report of the UNHRP has been prepared as the main background document for an expert group meeting to be convened in 2003. It is hoped that the deliberations of that meeting will facilitate the development of a global monitoring and evaluation system that can assist States and other stakeholders with the implementation of their commitments in the Habitat Agenda, to “the full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing as provided for in international instruments.”

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/monitoring-housing-rights-developing-set-indicators-monitor-full-and-progressive-realisation>



Effective planning guidelines for UNHCR teams

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (1999)

Key terms:
effective
planning;
strategic
planning;
programme
planning; project
planning

These guidelines are a management tool and resource for UNHCR field managers and our operational counterparts who have the responsibility of leading and coordinating planning processes in UNHCR field operations. The purpose of the guidelines is to assist the UNHCR field staff members and UNHCR partner staff members manage the planning process at all levels of an operation in the most effective and efficient way possible. The assumption underlying this emphasis on the planning process is that better planning processes lead to better quality results delivered on time in a cost effective manner.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/effective-planning-guidelines-unhcr-teams>



Consolidated Appeal process guidelines

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (1994)

Key terms:
consolidated
appeal
process (CAP);
guidelines

The Consolidated Appeal is one of four main components of General Assembly Resolution 46/182 provided to the Emergency Relief Coordinator [ERC] to promote effective and appropriate responses to emergencies. As envisaged in General Assembly Resolution 46/182, the ECOSOC Agreed Conclusions of Summer Session 1993, General Assembly Resolution 48/57 and based upon extensive consultations with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee membership, the Consolidated Appeal Process [CAP] should serve to facilitate a coordinated response by all those involved in meeting emergency needs throughout the course of an emergency and to provide an appeal through which resources are mobilised to implement programmes to meet the needs of people affected by complex or major emergencies in a manner that illustrates clearly the total range of needs and its relationship with the plans and appeals of the actors involved.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/consolidated-appeal-process-guidelines>



Shelter sector response plan as a contribution to a Common Action Plan for Haiti

Shelter Haiti (2010)

Key terms:
response plan;
needs analysis;
objectives;
monitoring;
indicators;
project selecting
criteria

The earthquake that occurred on 12 January 2010 has led to the deaths of an estimated more than 200,000 persons, and created 1,300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). A greater number has been affected but not displaced, with as yet unquantified damage and destruction to both infrastructure and homes. In order to define a suitable scaled and appropriately designed response to these needs, a Shelter Sector Response Plan has been prepared by the Strategic Advisory Group of the Shelter Cluster. This Sector Response Plan should be considered a living document and will be continually revised to adapt to a dynamic and unpredictable future to this response.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/shelter-sector-response-plan-contribution-common-action-plan-haiti>

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Sri Lanka Common Humanitarian Action Plan

Shelter Haiti (2010)

Key terms:
response plan;
needs analysis;
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The earthquake that occurred on 12 January 2010 has led to the deaths of an estimated more than 200,000 persons, and created 1,300,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). A greater number has been affected but not displaced, with as yet unquantified damage and destruction to both infrastructure and homes. In order to define a suitable scaled and appropriately designed response to these needs, a Shelter Sector Response Plan has been prepared by the Strategic Advisory Group of the Shelter Cluster. This Sector Response Plan should be considered a living document and will be continually revised to adapt to a dynamic and unpredictable future to this response.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/shelter-sector-response-plan-contribution-common-action-plan-haiti>

Inputs: incorporate inter-sectoral considerations into the strategic planning process

The development of a sector strategy involves inter-sectoral areas of work. These areas include land use planning and tenure, environment, and disaster risk reduction. By considering all of the relevant issues, the strategic planning process will be better informed and to more suited to the disaster response.



Two guideline for inter-sectoral considerations (41, 42) are referenced in Shelter After Disaster. A case study from Nepal (10) is also used to illustrate these guidelines.



Key propositions for building back better

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (1994)

Key terms:
building back
better; lessons
learned

Progress in reconstruction does not diminish the importance of exploring the myriad challenges encountered in the recovery process, examining gaps in performance, and considering lessons learned. Even if we substantially enhance our efforts at risk reduction, the reality of climate change, settlement patterns, and poverty suggests that natural hazards will continue to result in disasters that require well managed recovery efforts. I hope

that the observations and recommendations in this report help to enhance the quality of ongoing responses in the affected region, as well as promote more effective recovery in future operations across the globe.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/key-propositions-building-back-better>



Strategic planning of emergency areas for transitional settlement

Roberto Bologna (2006)

Key terms:
land planning;
land use;
building back
better

In emergency conditions, the realization of a settlement develops according to an unplanned process then affecting the transformation - often permanent - of places through the imposition of uncodified rules. The research here set forth proposes criteria and guidelines for the planning of transitional housing settlement areas in order to effectively meet the requirements of emergency prevention and post-disaster reconstruction through a coordinated approach among land/town urban planners, emergency planners, disaster managers, users.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/strategic-planning-emergency-areas-transitional-settlement>



Community based disaster risk reduction: disaster risk reduction good practice

Dhruba Raj Gautam / Mercy Corps Nepal (2009)

Key terms:
community
action; disaster
risk reduction;
good practice

It is widely recognized that recurrent disasters have a large hand in undermining the ability of communities, regions, nations and the global community itself to meet basic development goals. In addition, the intensity, and possibly the frequency, of natural disasters are likely to be exacerbated by climate change. In light of these threats, disaster risk reduction (DRR) is central to meeting local and global development objectives and to adapting to climate change. The importance of DRR is recognized globally in the key agreements of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and has been taken up by Mercy Corps.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/community-based-disaster-risk-reduction-good-practice>

As well as bringing people together, the strategy is a tool for collating and analysing information from various activities. By undertaking these assessment activities, strategic and programme plans will be better informed and more suited to the response. It is also important to collaborate with other organisations in undertaking assessments and to share data to ensure an equitable, comprehensive and integrated response.



Shelter After Disaster refers to a text from the tsunami response (43).



The role of needs assessment in the tsunami response

Claude de Ville de Goyet & Lezlie C Morinière / Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
role of assessment; planning process; scale of intervention; nature of intervention; case study

This report evaluates the adequacy, appropriateness and effectiveness of the assessment of need in the first three months after tsunami. It focuses on the impact of assessment on the response of international agencies and institutional donors and, ultimately, on the affected population.

The main body of this report reviews assessments intended to influence the decision making of the international community at large.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/role-needs-assessment-tsunami-response>

The documents presented in this chapter emphasize the vital importance of the participation of all stakeholders in the strategic planning process, which supports the development of a common shelter strategy to guide response efforts.

Sufficient guidance is provided in the documents selected on needs assessment needs analysis, strategic planning, and contingency planning. These processes are noted to have a positive impact on the quality of assistance provided to affected populations.

Shelter strategies are informed by international law and standards, including: international law applicable in natural disaster situations, international human rights standards, and UN principles on housing and property restitution.

Further to this, the success of any shelter project implementation will greatly depend on a good grasp of legal issues, including land rights and ownership. The findings from early needs and context analysis, including land issues, enables land issues, including appropriate land acquisition to guide transitional and permanent shelter planning. Listed references provide good insight into some of the potential problems, and a case study from Aceh illustrates the complexity of these issues.

The importance of integrating disaster risk reduction strategies as part of a shelter strategy is thoroughly explained throughout the documents; this is in line with the principle of 'building back better (or safer)' and 'do no harm'. The selected documents provided extensive guidance, operational framework and tools for integrating risk reduction into shelter activities.

In situations where a national government seeks international humanitarian assistance, the Consolidated Appeals Process is one method of coordinating the funding requirements; an example of the funding flow in a large response operation is provided.



Assessment

An assessment provides a snapshot of a situation at a single point in time. The aim of assessment in an emergency response is to understand the needs of the affected population, and the disaster impact including location, livelihood and the damage level to buildings and infrastructure.

While those affected by a disaster immediately begin to deal with the situation and initiate their own response, once the scope of the disaster is known, other resources can be mobilized. The assessment guides mobilization of the right resources. Assessments should take into account existing plans, resources and capacities.

As every disaster situation is dynamic, it is essential that assessment data continue to be revised and refined, to support the overall response in adapting to the changing circumstances. Four assessment stages should build upon one another to avoid unnecessary or overlapping data:

- ▶ Preliminary assessment is conducted immediately following a disaster to provide as broad an initial picture as possible. When verified and expanded, collected information can serve to determine the overall patterns and trends and is particularly helpful for those who arrive from outside the affected area after the disaster. Preliminary assessment is carried out during the initial 24-72 hours.
- ▶ Rapid assessment is conducted soon after a disaster, usually within the first two weeks, and is often based on a combination of observations and semi-structured interviews, to create a profile of those affected and the extent of the damage. It is used to confirm or adjust strategic objectives that were formed based on information from the preliminary assessment. Time constraints may require that assumptions need to be made based on the evidence available.
- ▶ Joint or in-depth assessments are conducted after immediate life saving needs have been addressed, and are designed to provide information with greater breadth and reliability about every affected household. These assessments support efficient allocation of resources, help to create a shared understanding of the situation, and help to mitigate tensions that could arise between or within communities. The assessment will also identify

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where there are gaps in expertise and capacity, and the need for specialists to assist with shelter issues, including strategy development and implementation, can be identified.

- ▶ Monitoring and evaluation is an ongoing process of revising and refining the data, and improving the presentation and flow of information to inform decision-making. As plans are implemented, feedback should be solicited from the affected communities to ensure that the expected outputs and outcomes are being achieved, and that the programs are in fact meeting their goals. The focus is not only on validating information, but also on building a knowledge base.

Additionally, there are four different subjects about which data is being collected:

- ▶ Who, within the affected population, is in need of shelter assistance, and what form of assistance is required. This includes both transitional settlement and reconstruction, and information about the location. An example of a rapid shelter assessment can be found in case study 15;
- ▶ Actual and potential hazards and risks within the environment. A guide to environmental needs assessment can be found in reference 45;
- ▶ Livelihood capitals that people may draw upon for their recovery. The Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis toolkit is described in reference 45 and an example is given in case study 11; and
- ▶ Level of building damage and loss. Assessing damage after a disaster is described in reference 44.

3.1

Participation

Participation: involve all stakeholders to carry out assessment, monitoring and evaluation

Undertaking a well represented assessment will facilitate the wider operational response by better informing those involved and by creating reasonable expectations from both the government and those being assessed. Assessments should therefore constitute a continuous dialogue between those assessing and those being assessed by inviting feedback and adapting to new information and circumstances.



Shelter After Disaster refers to a participatory framework (44) on assessing damage in a post-disaster and recovery context.

guide
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Assessing damage after disaster: a participatory framework and toolkit

Vivek Rawal, Dinesh Prajapati / UNNATI - Organization for Development Education (2007)

Key terms:
damage
assessment;
participation;
framework; tools

This booklet has been developed with the objective to give field practitioners working in post-disaster humanitarian response, a participatory and vulnerability focused frame work and appropriate effective tools to carry out the multi-sectoral damage assessment. The purpose of developing this toolkit has been to support a comprehensive understanding of the impact in a participatory manner. It is our hope that the toolkit will equip multi-disciplinary teams with a range of tools and techniques that are intensive, iterative and participatory- to gather useful and accurate information of various type s of damages after 3 to 4 weeks of disaster. It will bring about greater reliability, accuracy and help build community consensus on issues of nature and extent of impact. Use of participatory methodology will further build accountability of humanitarian actions towards the affected community.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/assessing-damage-after-disasters-participatory-framework-and-toolkit>

3.2
Assessment

Assessment: understand different stages and types of assessment subjects

The situation and needs after a disaster will change from day to day, therefore the specific timeframe and methods used to carry out assessment, monitoring and evaluation operations following a rapid-onset natural disaster will vary. The details of each operation will be subject to contextual factors, such as the security situation, physical access to the affected area, and/or the financial and human resources available.



A number of case studies (11 - 18) are listed in Shelter After Disaster that illustrate the various stages and types of assessment. Additionally, guidelines 45 - 48 are referred to in the text.

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The Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis toolkit

Mike Albu / Practical Action (2010)

Key terms:
EMMA toolkit;
market system
analysis; critical
markets

In recent years, international humanitarian agencies have been adapting their responses to emergencies. Many have begun using cash-based initiatives, alongside or in place of conventional relief distributions of food and non-food items. Local procurement is also being encouraged, and opportunities for other innovative responses explored (Harvey 2005, 2007). These changes in practice draw attention to the need for better analysis of markets. There is a growing realization that the best opportunities for assisting women and men may be missed unless emergency responses are designed with a good understanding of critical market systems. Moreover, lack of this market analysis in humanitarian programmes may be damaging the livelihoods, jobs, and businesses upon which people's long-term security depends.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/emergency-market-mapping-and-analysis-toolkit>



Environmental needs assessment in post-disaster situations: a practical guide for implementation

United Nations Environment Program (2008)

Key terms:
environmental
needs assess-
ment (ENA);
ENA steps; ENA
teams; ENA for
planning

During and after any crisis, decision-makers at the national and international levels rely on rapidly acquired information to analyse impacts, set priorities, identify gaps, plan early recovery responses, mobilise resources and engage in advocacy. Timely and wellfounded information on post-disaster environmental impacts and possible risks to health, livelihoods and the environment and ecosystem services is an invaluable contribution to these efforts. Despite a growing recognition of the important links between the environment and other life-supporting sectors and systems, environmental information to inform decision making is often unavailable or inaccessible in a post-crisis situation. National databases may have ceased to function or census data may be outdated. The capacity of relevant state institutions may also be weakened, poorly resourced and in serious need of support. Insecurity or poor communication with affected areas may also constrain access to primary data, while competing interests or priorities can also hamper the gathering of vital information. Often, therefore, despite good intentions, environmental considerations are often overlooked

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/environmental-needs-assessment-post-disaster-situations>



Vulnerability and capacity assessment – VCA

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2006)

Key terms:
case studies;
community-
based approach;
vulnerability and
capacity

Dealing with disasters is a key part of the work of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the International Federation). Its global emergency response and humanitarian work is well-known, and has unfortunately become more prominent because of recent devastating events. Less well-known are the many hundreds of community-based activities being carried out around the world that are designed to reduce people's vulnerability to hazards.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/vulnerability-and-capacity-assessment-vca>



Food-security assessments in emergencies: a livelihoods approach

Helen Young, Susanne Jaspars, Rebecca Brown, Jackie Frize and Hisham Khogali / Humanitarian Practice Network (2001)

Key terms:
case studies;
livelihood
assessment;
information
collection

This paper describes the theory and practice of Oxfam GB's livelihoods approach to assessing food security in emergencies. A livelihoods approach simply means emergency programming aimed at supporting livelihoods, as well as saving lives. In terms of food-security assessments, a livelihoods approach involves assessing the longer-term risks to livelihoods, as well as short-term nutritional or life-threatening risks.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/food-security-assessments-emergencies-livelihoods-approach>

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Vulnerability and capacity assessment: an international federation guide

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (1999)

Key terms:
disaster
preparedness;
guidelines;
mapping
hazards and
risks

This publication is not a 'how-to' guide, but should be considered as a step in the process of showing National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies how vulnerability and capacity assessments (VCA) can help them improve their understanding of the needs of people at greatest risk of natural and man-made disasters, and thus prepare more appropriate actions to assist them cope with and recover from these hazards. The guide includes National Society case studies and examples describing VCA's usefulness and lessons learned. The International Federation's disaster preparedness department believes that VCA will contribute to a greater understanding of the nature and level of risks that vulnerable people face; where these risks come from; who will be the worst affected; what is available at all levels to reduce the risks and what initiatives can be undertaken to strengthen the impact of National Society programmes to raise the capacity of people at risk.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/vulnerability-and-capacity-assessment-international-federation-guide>



EMMA Pakistan flood response (Sindh final report)

Rick Bauer / European Commission Humanitarian Aid Office International Organization for Migration (2010)

Key terms:
market mapping;
shelter material
market

This report summarizes the findings of an inter-agency assessment team that looked at the impact of the devastating monsoon floods of 2010 on market systems in Sindh, Pakistan. Four market commodities or services were selected for the assessment, each of which is of critical importance to millions of subsistence farmers and landless labourers in Sindh who were identified as our target population: wheat flour market system, livestock fodder market system, agricultural labour market system, and bamboo and timber poles as a shelter material market systems.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/emma-pakistan-flood-response-sindh-final-report>



2009 Global assessment report on disaster risk reduction risk and poverty in a changing climate

United Nations (2009)

Key terms:
global
assessment

This first edition of the United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction is not only a comprehensive review and analysis of the natural hazards menacing humanity. It also provides new and arresting evidence on how, where and why disaster risk is increasing globally. That risk is highly concentrated in middle- and low-income countries, and is felt most acutely by people living in poor rural areas and slums. But of course, wealthier countries are not immune, as bush fires in Australia reminded us so tragically at the start of this year. The risk of disaster touches every woman, man and child on Earth. Drawing on detailed studies, this Global Assessment urges a radical shift in development practices, and a major new emphasis on resilience and disaster planning.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/global-assessment-report-disaster-risk-reduction-2009-preliminary>



CHF rapid needs assessment report after the west sumatra earthquake, October 2009

CHF International (2009)

Key terms:
global
assessment

On September 30, 2009 a powerful earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter Scale struck the western Sumatra coast of Indonesia. Many homes, commercial and government buildings including schools and clinics were destroyed during the quake. Other structures were significantly impacted and sustained enough damage to compromise their structural integrity to a dangerous degree. Approximately 1,250,000 people have been affected through the total or partial loss of their homes and livelihoods. Over 1,000 people lost their lives in these structures during and immediately following the earthquake. Many others are lost or have been displaced due to the collapse of their homes. This assessment report summarizes the main findings and current recommendations of CHF International concerning the affected District of Padang Pariman with relation to shelter, current relief received, water, sanitation, and hygiene.

The assessment took place from October 9 through October 13. The assessment was done in rural villages northwest from the City of Padang in Padang Pariaman District of West Sumatra. The initial assessment was conducted by a team of national and

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international staff including two civil engineers, one architect, a construction manager, and a public health specialist. Based on the initial observations and discussions with community members, an in-depth assessment tool was created to facilitate a more thorough assessment of the area.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/chf-rapid-needs-assessment-report-after-west-sumatra-earthquake-october-2009>

case study 15



Rapid shelter assessment (remote and rural areas): West Sumatra earthquake of 30 September 2009

Adjie Fachrurrazi, Seki Hirano / CARE International (2009)

Key terms: rapid assessment; shelter assessment

CARE's emergency response team has observed some of the devastating effects of the West Sumatra earthquake of 30th Sept 2009. 135,333 houses have been rendered uninhabitable. Much of the structural failure has been due to the magnitude of the 7.6 earth quake combined with unsafe construction practices. Observations within the first week post disaster reports impressive local culture to self-help, and put together makeshift shelters from salvaged material. However the fact remains that affected populations have lost their homes, water and sanitation facilities, assets and in some cases their livelihoods (land, shops etc). A portion of the affected have been seen living in collective centres and some in government IDP camps. The rapid assessment has found that the affected population needs of shelter from the elements and support to clear dangerous structures. Also to reduce the risk of water born diseases and maintain health essential household items and hygiene material will contribute to the relief. The damage experienced is over-whelming it must be highlighted that efforts to aid building back safer must be the highest priority to limit the impact of any future disasters.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/west-sumatra-rapid-shelter-assessment-remote-and-rural-areas-september-2009>

case study 16



Post Nargis joint assessment

Representatives of the Government the Union of Myanmar, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and the United Nations (2008)

Key terms: sector impact; economic and social impact; recovery strategy, disaster risk management; response

On 2 and 3 May 2008, Cyclone Nargis struck the coast of Myanmar and moved inland across the Ayeyarwady Delta and southern Yangon Division, causing many deaths, destroying livelihoods, and disrupting economic activities and social conditions. This report describes the human loss and assessment of damage to physical assets, the subsequent losses sustained across all economic activities, and the impact of the disaster on both the national economy and household-level activities and well-being.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/post-nargis-joint-assessment>

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Aceh flood: damage and loss assessment

The Government of Indonesia, The World Bank (2007)

Key terms: damage and loss, assessment report

In late December 2006, widespread flooding struck eastern and central Aceh and parts of neighbouring North Sumatra province. Seven Acehnese districts were affected: Aceh Tamiang, Aceh Timur, Bireuen and Aceh Utara on the east coast; and Aceh Tengah, Bener Meriah and Gayo Lues in the highlands.

Government requested that a damage assessment be carried out in affected areas to assess the damage and to better design post-emergency assistance. The survey was carried out through the network of the Kecamatan Development Program (KDP) from December 30 – January 19 in affected villages.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/aceh-flood-damage-and-loss-assessment>

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Grenada macro social economic assessment caused by hurricane Ivan

Organization of Eastern Caribbean states (2004)

Key terms:
sector by sector
analysis; overall
study

This study to undertake a Macro-economic and Social Assessment of the effects of Hurricane Ivan on the performance of the Grenadian economy, in the short, medium and long term, was initiated as a result of a visit by the Director General of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, to the Prime Minister Dr. the Hon. Keith Mitchell, on 10 September - Day Three of the post event period. It was clear from the scope and scale of the damages sustained, that while significant efforts needed to be deployed urgently to deal with the immediate emergency effects of the event, critical thinking also needed to be applied rather quickly, to the types of interventions critical to the process of rebuilding the economy. Tourism and agriculture – among the main drivers of the economy - had all suffered tremendous damages. Damages to infrastructure and other essential services at both the national and community levels were also significant

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/grenada-macro-socio-economic-assessment-damages-caused-hurricane-ivan>

3.3



Tools

Tools: identify and design tools required to implement assessments

Assessment, monitoring and evaluation are undertaken to identify what is needed and what capacity is available to meet that need. The tools for assessment, therefore, should be designed to facilitate this process. The design of appropriate tools is best undertaken in a team discussion while consulting or involving as many stakeholders as is practical.



Three texts are referenced in Shelter After Disaster (49, 50, 51) and one case study from Aceh (20) is discussed.

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The UNHCR tool for participatory assesment in operations

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2006)

Key terms:
methods;
tools; steps of
participatory
assessment

Refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees must be at the centre of decision-making concerning their protection and well-being. In order to gain a deeper understanding of the protection problems they face, it is essential to consult them directly and to listen to them. Their right to participate in decisions on matters that affect their lives is enshrined in human rights instruments and UNHCR policy and guidelines, in particular the Agenda for Protection. The participation from the outset of refugee women and men, young and old and from diverse backgrounds, in the definition of problems and the design of programmes for their benefit is crucial to serving, assisting, and protecting them and ensuring an effective operation. PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/unhcr-tool-participatory-assessment-operations>

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The livelihood assessment tool-kit: analysing and responding to the impact of disasters on the livelihoods of people

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization (2009)

Key terms:
livelihoods;
tools; baseline;
contingency
plan; initial
appraisal;
detailed
assessment

Assessing the impact of disasters on the livelihoods of people and the capacity and opportunities for recovery and increased resilience to future events is an important part of the response to disasters, yet current assessment systems are often weak, uncoordinated and are not strongly linked to livelihood recovery interventions. In order to improve understanding of the impact of disasters on livelihoods, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO) have jointly developed the Livelihood Assessment Tool-kit (LAT). The LAT consists of three main technical elements: Livelihood Baseline Assessment (which is undertaken pre-disaster); Immediate Livelihood Impact Appraisal (undertaken immediately after the disaster); and Detailed Livelihood Assessment (undertaken up to 90 days after the disaster).

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/livelihood-assessment-tool-kit-analysing-and-responding-impact-disasters-livelihoods-people>

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How to do a VCA a practical step-by-step guide for Red Cross and Red Crescent staff and volunteers

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2007)

Key terms:
assessments;
methods; tools.

Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies are increasingly working alongside vulnerable communities, seeking to address the underlying causes of their problems. This shift from our more 'traditional role' as service providers has required a new set of ideas, attitudes, methods and tools in order to meet our objectives in working together with people in need. Vulnerability and capacity assessment (VCA) was developed to enable National Societies to help communities understand the hazards that affect them and take appropriate measures to minimize their potential impact. These measures are based on communities own skills, knowledge and initiatives – thereby preventing these hazards turning into disasters. VCA is a method of investigation into the risks that people face in their locality, their vulnerability to those risks and their capacity to cope with and recover from disasters.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/how-do-vca-practical-step-step-guide-red-cross-red-crescent-staff-and-volunteers>



Field operations guide for disaster assessment and response

U.S. Agency for International Development (2005)

Key terms:
assessments
toolkit

This Field Operations Guide (FOG) for Disaster Assessment and Response has been developed by the U.S. Agency for International Development/Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) as a reference tool for individuals sent to undertake initial assessments or to participate as members of an OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). The FOG contains information on general responsibilities for disaster responders, formats and reference material for assessing and reporting on populations at risk, DART position descriptions and duty checklists, descriptions of OFDA stockpile commodities, general information related to disaster activities, information on working with the military in the field, and a glossary of acronyms and terms used by OFDA and other organizations.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/field-operations-guide-disaster-assessment-and-response-version-40>

Teams: establish assessment teams required to implement assessments

Assessment teams should include members with appropriate expertise and representation, including the affected communities. Establishing the appropriate team structure should be based on the circumstances surrounding each assessment.



The Guidelines for Emergency Assessment (52) published by the IFRC is referenced in Shelter After Disaster.



Guidelines for emergency assessment

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2005)

Key terms:
team structure;
info collection;
assessment
methodology

Assessment is a vital element of the programme-planning process. Assessment provides the information on which decisions will be made. Whilst good information does not guarantee a good programme, poor information almost certainly guarantees a bad one. The use of a standard methodology means that information can be compared with data collected during previous assessments.

The guidelines are designed for use by anyone undertaking an assessment: all members of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement; and generalists – no specific technical knowledge is required to use them.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-emergency-assessment>

Implementation: decisions to inform strategic, programme and project implementation

Assessment should be implemented through a parallel process of gathering information and managing information. By undertaking the activities outlined in Shelter After Disaster the sector strategy and supporting programme and project plans will be better informed and better suited to the response.



Shelter After Disaster refers to three guidelines (53, 54, 55) on implementation. It also draws upon a case study from Aceh (20) and Thailand (21).



Gender and shelter in emergencies

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (2007)

Key terms:
gender issues;
gender
responsive
design

In the initial stages of an emergency where populations have been displaced, shelter and site selection are especially important for safety, protection and human dignity, and to sustain family and community life. Women, girls, boys and men have different needs, roles and responsibilities related to shelter/houses. Gender considerations have to be integrated into shelter planning and programme to ensure people affected by crisis benefit equally from safe shelter.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/gender-and-shelter-emergencies>



Guidelines for assessment in emergencies

Inter-Agency Standing Committee - Emergency Shelter Cluster (2006)

Key terms:
assessment
process;
information
management;
assessment and
planning

After a major change has occurred (e.g. an earthquake) or is occurring (e.g. a sudden population displacement) and an emergency situation has been declared, an initial rapid assessment must be carried to predict its evolution in the short run and determine the needs and resources of the affected population. Collected information will allow for the planning of the appropriate response which will include immediate protection and assistance to cover urgent survival needs. Experience shows that initial assessments are carried out by emergency response teams which, simultaneously, provide the initial response to meet vital needs. As the emergency evolves, more detailed assessments will follow to determine similarly evolving needs. These guidelines provide advice on the organization of initial rapid assessments and, to the extent possible, attempt to spotlight the emergency shelter intervention. The sequence of sections corresponds to the order in which tasks could be carried out – planning, fieldwork, analysis and reporting. However, assessment is not a linear process and most of these tasks overlap. The user of the guidelines is therefore likely to move backwards and forwards through the document in order to make the best use of it in view of the situation.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/iasc-guidelines-assessment-emergencies>



Protection of internally displaced persons in situations of natural disaster

Office of the Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons(2005)

Key terms:
involuntary
relocation;
family
reunification;
discrimination;
women and
children

In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, efforts have focused, as might be expected, on search and rescue, bringing clean water, food, clothing, medical care and shelter to survivors, and identifying and burying the vast number of dead. The response, local to global, in addressing these emergency needs has been truly unprecedented. However, much less attention has been devoted to issues of human rights protection that also have arisen and need to be addressed. Protection concerns include access to assistance, discrimination in aid provision, enforced relocation, sexual and gender-based violence, recruitment of children into fighting forces, loss of documentation, safe and voluntary return or resettlement, and issues of property restitution.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/protection-internally-displaced-persons-situations-natural-disaster>



Environment and reconstruction in Aceh: two years after the tsunami

United Nations Environment Programme (2007)

Key terms:
environmental
aspects of
reconstruction

In retrospect, it is clear that environmental concerns were not sufficiently incorporated into strategic planning at the outset of the reconstruction process, and that as a result, reconstruction efforts have contributed to further degradation of Aceh's environment in the months since the tsunami. This report identifies the key issues and provides recommendations to strengthen reconstruction efforts, help the region achieve sustainable development and reduce risks from future potential disasters.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/environment-and-reconstruction-aceh-two-years-after-tsunami>

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Impact of the tsunami response on local and international capacities - Thailand country report

Tsunami Evaluation Coalition (2006)

Key terms:
gender issues;
vulnerable
groups; migrant
labour;
cross-cutting
themes

This evaluation reviews the impact of the international tsunami response on Thailand's national and local capacities. Because Thailand declined international financial assistance, the review analyses only government coordination and private-sector response. Given such special circumstances, the review team was reduced to two members, and the timeframe of the mission was limited to 10 days.

The Thai government executed an efficient immediate emergency and early recovery response. It included the prompt provision of health services, a major forensic operation, construction of temporary shelters and permanent houses, compensating survivors, the use of military assets to support recovery and mobilising public funds and attention to disaster management.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/impact-tsunami-response-local-and-national-capacities-thailand-country-report-aceh-and-nias>

A large number of comprehensive guidelines and toolkits referring to the different stages of assessment, and different assessment subjects have been published within the international humanitarian community.

The number and quality of documents presented in this chapter reflects the importance of assessment in humanitarian relief, where many decisions have to be made rapidly, and the needs of the affected population have to be met. Assessment is a tool that facilitates decision making, and enables learning and improvement.

Every international organisation has produced one or more guidance book, which describes in detail the assessment and planning process, assessment types, and assessment methods and techniques; they also provide toolkits with practical instructions on collection of information, analysis and interpretation, and monitoring and evaluation. Although each of these publications carries a trademark of a particular organisation, and reflects their role in emergency response, the

material covered is sufficiently extensive to serve many different users.

Most publications do provide a basic description of the assessment team selection process, but the information often reflects the organisation's structure. More general guidance about the process of assessment team selection would be welcome.

Several publications listed in this chapter address cross-cutting issues, such as gender and the environment.

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Implementation

Implementation is the process converting strategy to action, and delivering on the humanitarian objectives laid out in the strategy through provision of a range of projects and programmes.

Plans should be flexible to changing needs of the affected population as they move between options for settlement and reconstruction.

Implementing a programme involves five fundamental decisions:

- ▶ stakeholder participation - how to ensure that all stakeholders participate, thereby supporting an integrated response at all levels. It is especially important that the affected population and government, are active participants, and that the private sector and other identified stakeholders are included;
- ▶ affected populations - assessing the location, movements and percentage of the displaced, non-displaced and indirectly affected populations;
- ▶ shelter options - selection of the most appropriate transitional settlement or reconstruction options for each beneficiary group, including whether to repair, rebuild, retrofit or relocate; the needs of those who initially stay with host families should not be forgotten (guidance on selecting appropriate shelter and settlement options can be found in references 59 and 68);
- ▶ assistance methods - selection and combination of assistance methods, including the type of labour, materials, support and quality assurance process. Assistance should include support to build back safer (guidance on assistance methods can be found in references 58 and 63); and
- ▶ coordination structure - how to coordinate and monitor implementation to ensure progress, efficient project and programme management (guidance on coordination and monitoring can be found in references 62 and 96).

Shelter implementation options include a combination of direct, community, contract and self-help labour. Direct labour is useful for small scale projects, community and self-help projects are used when local labour is available and where the culture of building already exists, and contracted labour provides technical expertise for complex construction projects.

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Shelter implementation must also address the provision and distribution of general items, shelter construction items, and water, sanitation and hygiene items in the time immediately after the disaster. Items to support return and transit are additionally distributed to those who return to their place of origin or relocate to a new location. Guidance on the distribution of NFIs can be found in reference 72.

Shelter program implementation, where temporary or permanent relocation is necessary, must be closely integrated with water and sanitation activities, and consider how livelihoods have been impacted. Other issues which need to be addressed include financial, legal and administrative issue, and environmental and infrastructure management.

Appropriate technical expertise and information centres can improve the quality of shelter programming.

The implementation strategy should include assessment and analysis of best and worst case scenarios specific to the response, and this should lead to the development of contingency plans. A range of incidental factors and challenges that may lead to delays of any programme and project, no matter how well planned. Good coordination supports adaptation of implementation plans, allowing the response to remain appropriate to new challenges and needs on the ground

4.1 

Participation

Participation: ensure all stakeholders are involved in all implementation activities

Ensuring that all stakeholders participate in programme and project level implementation guarantees that the response is holistic; for example, making sure that water and sanitation, education and health factors are all considered in transitional settlement and reconstruction programme and project plans.



Two texts on stakeholder participation (56, 57) are referenced in Shelter After Disaster.

guide
56**LENSS tool kit: local estimate of needs for shelter and settlement - field version**

Gillian M. Kular and Esteban Leon / Inter-Agency Standing Committee, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN-Habitat, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2007)

Key terms:
beneficiary
identification;
beneficiary
registration;
locality
assessment;
tools

Much has been written in recent years about the challenges of providing housing for the victims of natural disasters. Despite all our knowledge of the subject, sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation in the housing sector remains one of the most controversial and challenging aspects of post-disaster recovery. One of the biggest problem areas identified by the IASC Global Shelter Cluster is getting reliable assessments of housing and settlements needs after a crisis. This publication seeks to help fill the gaps here. It explains the importance of ensuring that those who survive a natural disaster are involved and consulted from the very beginning in their recovery process – rather than being treated as “humanitarian liabilities”. This inclusive approach has significant implications for the recommended approaches to post-disaster housing and settlements recovery.

The humanitarian reform process (2005/2006) has helped broaden the community of practitioners, reinforced global and country-based coordination systems, and required the agencies involved to seek new and better means of ensuring integrated and robust humanitarian programming and early recovery approaches for achieving sustainable development. This is why we emphasise here the importance of always being aware of local cultural, and socio-economic norms in drafting post-disaster plans. This is especially important when it comes to housing for the simple reason that new homes become a permanent aspect of everyday life. Putting the people first is the key to success.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/local-estimated-needs-shelter-and-settlement-field-version>

guide
57**Truths and myths about community participation in post-disaster housing projects**

Colin H. Davidson, Cassidy Johnson, Gonzalo Lizarralde, Nese Dikmena, Alicia Sliwinskia / HABITAT INTERNATIONAL (2006)

Key terms:
community
participation;
housing
projects;
strategic
planning; case
studies

It has been widely accepted by policy makers and commentators, funding bodies and NGOs that the key to performance in low-cost housing projects in developing countries lies in community participation. This paper proposes that this premise (extensively discussed in the theory and emphasized in grant applications) is not clearly reflected in the realities of reconstruction practice. In fact, there are many ways in which users/beneficiaries can participate in post-disaster reconstruction projects but

not all types of participation ensure the best deployment of their capabilities. The systems approach shows that there is a continuum of possibilities for participation; at one extreme, users are involved in the projects only as the labour force, whereas at the other, they play an active role in decision-making and project management.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/truths-and-myths-about-community-participation-post-disaster-housing-projects>

4.2

Options

Options: support rapid assessment to find out who, what and where

Shelter After Disaster introduces six options for displaced and six options for non-displaced populations which will assist project and programme managers in identifying who in the affected population is doing what and where. The six settlement and six reconstruction options may not be sufficient in providing shelter solutions over the duration of recovery however, thus the 'transitional shelter' approach has been developed. Transitional shelter can be used in combination with other forms of shelter response, where shelter is supported incrementally within each option.



Shelter After Disaster refers to five texts (58 - 62) on assessment support.

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Transitional shelter: understanding shelter from the emergency through reconstruction and beyond

Sam Collins, Tom Corsellis, Antonella Vitale / Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (2010)

Key terms:
transitional shelter process;
displaced populations

People who are homeless because of disaster or conflict need somewhere to live while they rebuild their houses, or find alternative accommodation. Shelter and reconstruction therefore happen in parallel, rather than consecutively. The pioneering approach of transitional shelter acknowledges that reconstruction takes usually between two and five years, but that a tent only lasts for around one year.

Transitional shelter is a process rather than a product, but the transitional shelters themselves are simple re-locatable structures that offer appropriate and flexible shelter over the period of reconstruction. Afterwards, the shelters are upgraded, reused, sold or recycled. The approach is not another phase

of response: rather, it involves building and upgrading incrementally, from materials that offer immediate shelter such as plastic sheeting or sustainable local materials.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/transitional-shelter-understanding-shelter-emergency-through-reconstruction-and-beyond>

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Transitional shelter: essential criteria to be met

Practical Action (2008)

Key terms:
criteria; tools;
transitional shelter

The following steps are recommended to be followed in planning transitional shelters following a disaster to optimise the matching of needs with the availability of land and other resources.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/transitional-shelter-essential-criteria-be-met>

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Transitional shelter quality, standards and upgrading guidelines

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2005)

Key terms:
transitional shelter;
standards;
guidelines;
quality

Following the tsunami on 26 December 2004, it is estimated that there are approximately 500,000 displaced people and 100,000 properties destroyed. More than 90 different organisations – UN agencies, NGOs, INGOs, political parties, private donors and government - have provided assistance by constructing transitional shelter in Sri-Lanka. In 6 months since tsunami, some 40,000 shelters have been built, and it is envisaged that 10-15,000 more may be needed. Whilst the majority of shelters are of suitable quality, there are many which have been assessed by Transitional Accommodation Project (TAP) and others, as being sub-standard. The purpose of this document is to discuss the issues relating to improving the quality of these shelters. Also, to propose a methodology to do so, with the aim of assisting TAP to develop a policy on upgrading and to provide guidance on this topic to the districts, whilst allow sufficient flexibility to ensure that specific situations and structures in each district can be accommodated.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/transitional-shelter-quality-standards-and-upgrading-guidelines>



Report on the transitional settlement sector

shelterproject.org (2003)

Key terms:
transitional settlement;
shelter needs; coping strategies

This report shows that the nature of transitional settlement response has been misunderstood throughout the evolution of the aid community as being the physical shelter needs of the individual, such as protection from the elements, and that this has resulted in disproportionately small resources being committed to meeting wider needs, such as security. This, when combined with insufficient legal mechanisms to support transitional settlement as a human right, has undermined the development of the sector.

The report seeks to develop both an understanding of transitional settlement needs and coping strategies resulting from conflict and natural disasters, and an understanding of the appropriateness of response to these needs.

The report is the first phase in the development, with the same peer review, of field guidelines to support response to the transitional settlement needs of those displaced from their homes by conflict and natural disasters.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/report-transitional-settlement-sector>



Temporary human settlement planning for displaced populations in emergencies

Andrew Chalinder / Overseas Development Institute (1998)

Key terms:
temporary settlement;
displaced populations

This sixth GPR in the RRN series set itself the task of broadening thinking on temporary human settlement planning in emergencies. It asks what is good, or at least better, practice in planning 'for' not planning 'of' temporary settlements for displaced populations. The author draws a distinction between the more technical aspects of site allocation and preparation and decisions which take into account political, environmental and economic sustainability issues when planning settlements

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/temporary-human-settlement-planning-displaced-populations-emergencies>

Response: establish which settlement or reconstruction options are safe and appropriate to implement

Once settlement options have been identified by the beneficiaries, programme and project managers will need to decide which option, or combination of options, will be supported by the project and whether transitional shelter should be implemented within the options. Additionally, once the options to support have been chosen, the decision should be taken as to how to rebuild more safely.



The following six guidelines on settlement and reconstruction options (63 - 68) are referred to in Shelter After Disaster.



Owner-driven housing reconstruction guidelines

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2010)

Key terms:
reconstruction,
relocation,
repair, retrofit,
rebuild, financial assistance

Whether we call them owner-driven, community-based or assisted self-help projects, there is evidence of growing interest in the use of participatory approaches for post-disaster recovery and reconstruction in both urban and rural areas. Within the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement (the Movement), these methods are commonly accepted as important components of successful community development programmes. The scale of present interest and the widespread acceptance of these methods suggest that their application will continue to grow. But the path ahead to ensure broad adoption and mainstreaming of owner-driven housing reconstruction (ODHR) is still not straightforward, hence the need for further guidance has been expressed.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/owner-driven-housing-reconstruction-guidelines>



Habitability of homes after a disaster

David Middleton / information and research for reconstruction (2008)

Key terms:
reducing temporary accommodation;
rebuilding

Following disaster, keeping families in their homes, or at least in their communities, is preferable to the alternative of evacuating them. As well as reducing temporary accommodation and evacuation demands, this focus minimises the stress and trauma for the family. Communities need people in order to

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commence the recovery phase - children to go back to schools, shoppers to engage retailers and employees to staff factories and offices – and people need to be part of the community during rebuilding in order to retain a psychological connection.

Identifying dangerous or insanitary homes following a disaster, applying temporary or rough repairs and keeping families in their homes, or returning them there as soon as possible, seems a sufficiently important element of disaster response and recovery to warrant a special focus by a national body with plans and resources to act but at present there is no such focus and no such body.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/habitability-homes-after-disaster>

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Tsunami resettlement Dutch Bar community in Thiraimadu, Batticaloa district Sri Lanka

Skat (2008)

Key terms:
Relocation;
housing
provision;
capacity
building; case
study

On December 26, 2004, Sri Lanka was one of the most ravaged countries in the Indian Ocean. The Tsunami caused extensive damage within one kilometre from the shore, all along the eastern and southern coastal belt, disrupting human life, livelihood, infrastructure, private and public properties as well as the social fabric. Batticaloa District on the East Coast was one of the most severely affected regions. Thousands of people were lacking food, clean water, clothes and basic equipment such as sanitation, beds, and spiritual and psychosocial comfort.

The project goal was to re-install and improve the living conditions of Tsunami-affected people. This went beyond provision of housing. It pursued a comprehensive approach combining technical, social, and economic dimensions and also aimed at developing construction skills, diversification of livelihood means, and strengthening of the community's capacity in conflict management. During project implementation, the latter became more and more important since local society had shifted from disruptions caused by the Tsunami to an ever more insecure political situation.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/tsunami-resettlement-dutch-bar-community-thiraimadu-batticaloa-district-sri-lanka>

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Guidelines for retrofitting of buildings

Government of Tamil Nadu, United Nations Development Program (2006)

Key terms:
Repair;
restoration;
strengthening;
techniques;
materials

Many buildings are informally constructed in a traditional manner without formal design by qualified Engineers or Architects. Such buildings involve stone, brick, concrete blocks, rammed earth, wood posts and thatch roof or combination of some or all the above materials. They are built with mud, lime or cement mortar. Some times combination of mortars having a mix is also used. The safety of these non-engineered buildings against earthquakes is of great concern especially because most losses of lives during past-earthquake have occurred in such buildings. The term non-engineered building is defined rather vaguely to include those which are not specifically designed against seismic forces.

This document describes guidelines and retrofit schemes for non-engineered traditional buildings with a view to ensure prevention of collapse of such buildings due to future possible earthquakes.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-retrofitting-buildings-retrofit-safety>

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Rebuilding after hurricane Mitch: housing reconstruction in Honduras and Nicaragua

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2002)

Key terms:
case study;
temporary
settlement;
reconstruction

Many buildings are informally constructed in a traditional manner without formal design by qualified Engineers or Architects. Such buildings involve stone, brick, concrete blocks, rammed earth, wood posts and thatch roof or combination of some or all the above materials. They are built with mud, lime or cement mortar. Some times combination of mortars having a mix is also used. The safety of these non-engineered buildings against earthquakes is of great concern especially because most losses of lives during past-earthquake have occurred in such buildings. The term non-engineered building is defined rather vaguely to include those which are not specifically designed against seismic forces.

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This document describes guidelines and retrofit schemes for non-engineered traditional buildings with a view to ensure prevention of collapse of such buildings due to future possible earthquakes.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/rebuilding-after-hurricane-mitch-housing-reconstruction-honduras-and-nicaragua>



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Housing reconstruction after conflict and disaster

Sultan Barakat / Humanitarian Practice Network (2003)

Key terms:
 reconstruction;
 temporary housing;
 transitional housing;
 repair; finance facilitation; new construction

Housing is essential to the well-being and development of most societies. It is a complex asset, with links to livelihoods, health, education, security and social and family stability. Housing is also an extremely vulnerable asset, and the destruction of homes or their loss through displacement or dispossession is one of the most visible effects of conflict and natural disaster. This paper argues that housing reconstruction should be a more prominent part of programming after conflict and disaster. Housing interventions face significant challenges that cannot simply be wished away. But if agencies are going to continue to do housing reconstruction in the aftermath of conflict and disaster, then there is a clear need to find ways of doing it better.

This paper reviews experiences in housing reconstruction in the aftermath of natural disaster and conflict. It offers guidance on how to plan and prepare for a housing reconstruction intervention; describes the various housing reconstruction approaches available; and sets out the various models of implementation that tend to be used.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/housing-reconstruction-after-conflict-and-disaster>

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Methods: decide what combination of labour, material, support and quality assurance is most appropriate

Community projects are generally most appropriate when the community has a culture and history of building along with a flexible schedule. Additionally, the shelter design must be simple in the context of the communities' capabilities and labour must be available. Resources may be transferred directly to the community, families, or managed with them, for example by an NGO.



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Shelter After Disaster refers to 26 texts on labour, materials, support and quality assurance (69 - 94) and uses three case studies (23, 24, 25) to show examples of project methods.

The IFRC shelter kit

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2010)

Key terms:
 non-food items;
 shelter items;
 'non-tent' shelter relief

Rather than waiting for the provision of tents or other such temporary shelter solutions, many people whose homes are affected by natural disasters begin the sheltering process themselves, using materials they are able to salvage from their damaged homes or sourced from their surroundings and with whatever tools they are able to access. Relief items, such as plastic sheeting or tarpaulins, as well as basic tools, rope and fixings such as nails, valuably aid such households to rapidly provide their own shelter solutions or to make damaged houses habitable. To support people helping themselves to provide appropriate shelter following a disaster, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) shelter kit has been developed, containing essential tools and materials to contribute to the construction of a basic household shelter or to make rapid repairs to a damaged home. Although the distribution of construction materials and tools has been a component of shelter relief programmes in many emergencies, until recently such assistance packages have only been developed after the disasters, a process that takes time and leads to inconsistencies in specifications and quality. By creating a standardised shelter kit, pre-positioned regionally in significant quantities using defined and tested specifications, IFRC has significantly improved the speed of delivery and predictability at the start of shelter responses. In 2008, a total of 50,000 IFRC shelter kits were distributed in Myanmar, Haiti, Nepal and Cuba, to rapidly provide the preferred "non-tent" shelter relief.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/ifrc-shelter-kit-ifrc-2010>



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Asbestos in emergencies: safer handling and breaking the cycle

Shelter Centre, ProAct Network (2009)

Key terms:
 building materials; health hazards

This booklet is a simple and practical guide for transitional settlement and reconstruction practitioners. It aims to provide basic background information on asbestos and its associated

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health risks. It provides key recommendations for minimising the risks of dealing with asbestos in post-disaster transitional settlement and reconstruction operations and suggests further reading sources for more in-depth technical information.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/brief-guide-asbestos-emergencies-safer-handling-breaking-cycle>

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Cash and vouchers manual

United Nations World Food Programme (2009)

Key terms:
cash support;
vouchers

Food has traditionally been the means used by WFP for transferring resources to beneficiaries. The Strategic plan 2008–2011 expanded the role of WFP from food aid to food assistance, introducing a more varied toolbox of responses, including cash and vouchers. This expansion in the available resource transfer modalities is intended to ensure that responses can be closely tailored to both the needs and the context of the people that WFP supports.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/cash-and-vouchers-manual>

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Non-food items distribution

Médecins Sans Frontières (2009)

Key terms:
NFI distribution;
guidance

This pocket guide, based on the model of a “quick start manual”, is part of a series covering activities to be implemented in the first phase of an emergency (0 to 3 months). It has the advantage of being short, simple and light (in your pocket) and thus does not contain full details these you can find in the various guidelines quoted in this guide.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/non-food-items-distribution-emergencies-idpsrefugees-and-natural-disasters>

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Timber as a construction material in humanitarian operations

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, IFRC, CARE International (2009)

Key terms:
NFI distribution;
guidance

This pocket guide, based on the model of a “quick start manual”, is part of a series covering activities to be implemented in the first phase of an emergency (0 to 3 months). It has the advantage of being short, simple and light (in your pocket) and thus does not contain full details these you can find in the various guidelines quoted in this guide.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/timber-construction-material-humanitarian-operations>

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Manual on hazard resistant construction in India for reducing vulnerability in buildings built without engineers

Rajendra Desai and Rupal Desai / National Centre For People's - Action In Disaster Preparedness (2008)

Key terms:
building systems;
damage types; disaster resistance designs;
basic rules; good quality construction; tools

Natural phenomena like earthquake and cyclones become disasters because of lack of awareness on how to construct affordable disaster resistant houses by using viable technologies. It has been observed that this ignorance results in the violation of the basic rules of good construction and hazard resistant technology leading to deaths, injury and unwarranted hardship to the people along with huge losses in terms of houses and infrastructure. In addition to the direct losses caused by the disaster it has been observed that the people suffer self-inflicted losses out of ignorance and under the influence of the unscientific myths that prevail after the disasters. For example the Latur E arthquake made people think that there was no future in their houses that were built out of stone, wood and mud, or those with foundation built on soil instead of on rock, or those that were made with load-bearing system. This led them to get their houses dismantled and sell the salvaged material at a throw away price. As a result tens of thousands of families lost perfectly good undamaged houses. This manual focuses on construction of hazard resistant masonry buildings as well as restoration and retrofitting of the existing masonry buildings.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/manual-hazard-resistant-construction-india-reducing-vulnerability-buildings-built-without-en>

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Myths and realities of prefabrication for post-disaster reconstruction

Colin Davidson, Gonzalo Lizarralde, Cassidy Johnson (2008)

Key terms:
prefabrication;
reconstruction

Prefabrication is usually associated with one of the two prevailing approaches to post-disaster reconstruction, the “top-down approach”. However, this is based on a narrow view of prefabrication, which associates it with high-tech and highly industrialized initiatives. “Prefabrication” literally means carrying out work earlier (typically moving it from the site to a controlled work environment), aiming for a better use of resources and improved control, and reducing skill- requiring operations on site - all in the interest of speed and profit. All building work uses materials (like sand, concrete, earth, formed on site) and components (units like bricks, sections like joists or assemblies like windows, necessarily prefabricated). Conventional prefabrication in high-tech and industrialized environments involves centralized factories, novel materials and stable organizations, but this is not necessarily the case in other environments.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/myths-and-realities-prefabrication-post-disaster-reconstruction>



“Pre-fab” shelter: some points to consider

U.S. Agency for International Development (2008)

Key terms:
prefabrication
consideration;
shelter

Paper briefly addresses issues of direct and indirect costs, capital flight, economic/employment impacts, cultural/ social appropriateness and standardization of outputs when considering implementation of “pre-fab” shelter.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/pre-fab-shelter-some-points-consider>



Simple manual for planning and upgrading displaced population settlements

UN-HABITAT (2008)

Key terms:
upgrading
settlements;

The UN-HABITAT assistance to displaced population is part of the joint inter agency efforts ongoing in several cities in the Somali region. The upgrading of the existing settlements' conditions is part of the tripartite strategy developed by UNHCR,

UN-HABITAT, DRC, and NRC aiming at improving the lives of slum dwellers on three fronts: (1) permanent resettlement, (2) improved transitional shelter solutions, and (3) upgraded existing living locations. This manual wants to be a support for the third component of this strategy, providing simple methods for decongesting the existing displaced population settlements, opening roads and firebreaks, and making space for basic services and infrastructure. The content of this manual is based on the field experience of UN-HABITAT and its partners.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/simple-manual-planning-and-upgrading-displaced-population-settlements>



Bhatar construction: timber reinforced masonry

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, French Red Cross (2007)

Key terms:
methods; timber
reinforced
masonry

Bhatar is a traditional construction system consisting of stone masonry with horizontal timber reinforcement bands. These bands (with cross pieces) act as seismic bands which prevent the walls from falling apart in an earthquake. Proper connection of the timber elements is critical for safety.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/earthquake-resistant-confined-masonry-construction>



Earthquake-resistant confined masonry construction

Svetlana Brzev (2007)

Key terms:
earthquake
resistance;
confined
masonry;
methods

Over the last 100 years, confined masonry construction has emerged as a building technology that offers an alternative to both unreinforced masonry and RC frame construction. The confining members are effective in enhancing the stability and integrity of masonry walls for in-plane and out-of-plane earthquake forces, enhancing the strength (resistance) of masonry walls under lateral earthquake loads, and reducing the brittleness of masonry walls under earthquake loads and hence improving their earthquake performance.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/earthquake-resistant-confined-masonry-construction>



Timber: a guide to the planning, use, procurement and logistics of timber as a construction material in humanitarian relief

Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (2007)

Key terms:
construction material; timber; procurement; use; relief

Hundreds of thousands of cubic meters of timber costing millions of dollars are consumed in relief and reconstruction programmes worldwide. The timber is used in construction by those affected by disaster and external organizations offering assistance. Poorly planned timber procurement can result in significant delays in responses to people's needs, environmental degradation and organisational financial and operational inefficiency. This document is the scoping study for a booklet that aims to consolidate published information and practical experiences on how humanitarian organisations go about procuring and using timber. This guideline will be useable in different contexts for any project involving the use of timber or bamboo as a construction material.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/timber-guide-planning-use-procurement-and-logistics-timber-construction-material-humanitaria>



Building with timber following a disaster

German Timber Promotion Fund (2006)

Key terms:
private sector initiative; use of timber

Our planet and its atmosphere form a dynamic system. Time and again mankind becomes aware of its force and elemental power, especially in the case of natural disasters such as earth- and seaquakes, storms and floods. Moreover, disasters caused by human activity are gaining in significance. In addition to the tragic loss of life involved, most disasters leave a far greater number of people destitute and homeless. As well as providing emergency aid, relief and government organizations are faced with the challenge of giving those affected the chance to recover in the medium- to long-term, and the chance to rebuild their lives under decent circumstances. The German Timber Promotion Fund (the central marketing institution of the German forestry and wood processing industries) began an initiative to explore feasible uses of timber constructions following a disaster. This publication presents the plan that was developed and the prospects for its implementation.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/building-timber-following-disaster>



Guidelines for design and construction of cyclone/tsunami shelters

Ministry of Home Affairs Government of India (2006)

Key terms:
private sector initiative; use of timber

Problem Statement India is highly vulnerable to a variety of natural and manmade disasters. Among natural hazards, the most notable ones are earthquakes, cyclones, floods, droughts and landslides. Tsunami is an additional concern of safety after the super tsunami of 26th December, 2004. These natural hazards are a huge developmental problem. India's vulnerability to tropical cyclones is well known. Worldwide, construction of cyclone shelters has been a proven means of preparedness as the vulnerable populations can be evacuated to these structures immediately after receiving the cyclone warning. India too has a 40-year history of construction and maintenance of cyclone shelters, notably from states such as Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu. Cyclone shelters constructed in these states proved effective and have become a source of local motivation for preparedness.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-design-and-construction-cyclonetsunami-shelters>



Guidelines for reconstruction of houses affected by tsunami in Tamil Nadu

Government of Tamil Nadu (2005)

Key terms:
construction guidelines; earthquake/cyclone resistance

Most of the losses of life in past earthquakes and cyclones have occurred due to the collapse of buildings, constructed in traditional materials like stone, brick, and wood, which were not particularly engineered to be earthquake and cyclone resistant. Tamil Nadu state has been identified by the vulnerability Atlas of India as prone to multi-hazards, which include severe cyclones, moderate earthquakes, tidal waves in costal regions, severe corrosion environment and other man made disasters like fire and blasts. In view of the continued use of such buildings in our country due to socio economic situation, it is essential to introduce disaster resistant features in their planning, design and construction

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-reconstruction-houses-affected-tsunami-tamil-nadu>

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Handbook on design and construction of housing for flood-prone rural areas of Bangladesh

Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (2005)

Key terms:
building materials;
construction design; bamboo; earth

It is a well-known fact that Bangladesh is a highly flood-prone country. As the result of annual floods, significant number of houses in the countryside as well as in urban areas is being destroyed annually. In recent floods during year 2004 we have seen a total or partial destruction to significant number of rural houses making about 1 million people homeless. To a large extent, the patterns and causes of destruction seem to result from poor technical knowledge and wrong perceptions. There is no adequate support for housing projects for low-income, flood-vulnerable communities through development projects undertaken by NGOs and the government, and dwelling houses in rural areas and urban slums are mostly owner-built without proper technical guidance.

There is thus a need for developing housing which is appropriate for flood-prone areas, where the suggested solutions can be made 'cost-effective' through rationalization of economy without compromising quality.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/handbook-design-and-construction-housing-flood-prone-rural-areas-bangladesh>



Technical guidelines for winterization strategy

Emergency Shelter Cluster South Asia Earthquake Pakistan (2005)

Key terms:
tent
winterization;
minimal standards

This winterisation strategy paper provides technical guidelines for the upgrading of non-winterized tents and for the use of shelter kits to reach minimal winterisation standards. It complements rather than replaces existing shelter strategies which aim to provide materials to help people make transitional shelters on their own land or to make repairs to existing buildings.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/technical-guidelines-winterization-strategy>



Traditional vs modern construction practices

S G Broadbent & D M Broadbent/ Information and Research for Reconstruction (2004)

Key terms:
building materials;
construction design;
methods;
practices

Many structures currently in use have been built adopting traditional practices. In recent years, the role of intermediate construction technology has emerged, and this trend has led to the questioning of many traditional practices. At no time are such questions more pertinent than when traditional practices fail a community during an earthquake. Modern practices are then promoted to provide many answers for avoiding the worst impacts of hazards.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/traditional-vs-modern-construction-practices>



Guidelines for the construction of emergency relief infrastructure

shelterproject.org (2003)

Key terms:
relief infrastructure;
construction designs

These guidelines aim to support the fieldworker in establishing the necessity for and overseeing the construction of multi-purpose buildings to be used in a range of emergency situations. The guidelines discuss the advantages and disadvantages of various structures that could be used for the multi-purpose building and describe two designs in detail: timber-framed structures and tunnel structures.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/guidelines-construction-emergency-relief-infrastructure>



Bamboo as a building material

RWTH Aachen University (2002)

Key terms:
building material;
bamboo

Building with bamboo looks back on an ancient tradition in the regions in which plant grows in abundance, such as South America, Africa and, in particular, in South-East- Asia. Bamboo is one of the oldest construction materials.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/bamboo-building-material-0>

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Montserrat – a case study in the application of multiple methods to meet a post disaster housing shortage

Andrew P. Fox (2002)

Key terms:
local and
international
resources;
prefabricated
units

Following the violent eruptions of the Soufriere Hills volcano in 1995 the Island of Montserrat suffered extensive damage and loss to its housing stock. The post disaster reconstruction programme involved the provision of new housing to meet both the immediate emergency need and the longer term need for the resettlement of the population. The re-housing programme drew heavily on both local and international resources and incorporated a range of solutions from low-cost prefabricated units, traditional timber framed units, masonry construction (upgraded to meet revised building code requirements) and high quality modular units. This paper will set out the challenges faced in the implementation of this programme, which included the logistical complications presented by an Island with very few natural resources, a need to maximise local employment and a desire to conform with accepted notions of best practice. The paper will also compare and contrast the effectiveness of the alternative methods in meeting both the above mentioned challenges and, more importantly, the needs of the Island population. In conclusion this paper will suggest ways in which lessons learned can lead to improvements of best practice.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/monserrat-case-study-application-multiple-methods-meet-post-disaster-housing-shortage>



Earthquake resistant housing – technical brief

Practical Action

Key terms:
materials;
design;
construction
details

The fundamental need for shelter can be easily recognised: people must have protection from the elements, somewhere to grow as a family, a place to work from and a home to call their own. In many countries people do not have the resources to buy houses built by professionals but rely on their own labour, using local materials to build their homes gradually. People make improvements and extend their houses as family requirements change and resources permit.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/earthquake-resistant-housing>



Bamboo in construction

TRADA Technology Limited (1998)

Key terms:
building
materials;
bamboo

Bamboo is one of the oldest and most versatile building materials with many applications in the field of construction, particularly in developing countries. It is strong and lightweight and can often be used without processing or finishing. In spite of these clear advantages, the use of bamboo has been largely restricted to temporary structures and lower grade buildings due to limited natural durability, difficulties in jointing, a lack of structural design data and exclusion from building codes.

The aim of this publication is to offer a general introduction to bamboo as a construction material, with the key areas of preservation and jointing addressed in more detail.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/bamboo-construction-introduction>



Health hazards of building materials

Roger Berry, John Boxall and Derrick Crump (1995)

Key terms:
asbestos;
cement; timber
preservatives;
paints

This report describes the hazards which can occur when dealing with four major classes of potential pollutants: namely paints, timber preservatives, formaldehyde, and Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC). Each of the classes is treated separately, but some of the general conclusions are also applicable to other potentially hazardous materials.

Brief mention is also made of the problems relating to asbestos and cement.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/health-hazards-building-materials>

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The use of selected indigenous building materials with potential for wide application in developing countries

UN-Habitat (1985)

Key terms:
indigenous
materials;

The high cost and insufficient supply of building materials in developing countries is partly a consequence of the dependence on imports. The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has, for a long time, been dealing with the subject of promoting the building materials sector, on principles of import-substitution and self-sufficiency. In general, this calls for a rapid expansion in production of indigenous building materials. Most countries possess the basic inputs required for production of an array of indigenous building materials: raw materials, labour, basic tools and energy. However, these potentials are yet to be translated into actual commercial-scale production. In several countries, some indigenous materials are being produced but not in sufficient quantities and sometimes at costs which are not competitive with imported materials. While there are opportunities to promote the wide-scale use of indigenous building materials, this can only be realized if certain constraints are eliminated through the adoption of a specific set of measures. This report examines the factors which act as constraints to the production and use of indigenous building materials and identifies measures which can be undertaken to overcome the constraints.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/use-selected-indigenous-building-materials-potential-wide-application-developing-countries>

Workshop report: humanitarian timber - Barisal, Bangladesh

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (2008)

Key terms:
building
materials;
timber in
humanitarian
operations

A one day workshop was held in Barisal Bangladesh on 7th February 2008. The workshop was funded by IFRC with support from the shelter working group in Barisal and attended by over 90 participants from national and international NGOs, environmental groups, forestry department officials and industry.

The timing of this workshop is to coincide with the planning of shelter programmes by various organisations. To meet the shelter needs of the cyclone affectees, as well as in the

subsequent reconstruction, the majority of shelter and houses will use timber in some form. As timber is a naturally growing construction material, there is significant variation in size, quality, and types available, and sourcing can have significant environmental impacts.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/workshop-report-humanitarian-timber-barisal-bangladesh>

Development and implementation of a wood procurement plan for post-tsunami reconstruction in Indonesia

George Kuru, Forestry Programme for Early Rehabilitation in Asian Tsunami Affected Countries (2005)

Key terms:
planning; wood
procurement

The 26 December 2004 earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean had a particularly large impact on Aceh Province in Indonesia. Nearly five per cent of the population (125 000 people) was killed and approximately ten percent (400 000 people) was displaced. Considerable damage was inflicted on houses, buildings, ports, bridges and other infrastructure, including for fisheries and agricultural production and processing. Trees and forests located along the coast were significantly affected, although the total damage was small relative to the total forest resources in Aceh.

The post-tsunami reconstruction programme will require large volumes of lumber, plywood and other wood products. The greatest volume will be needed for residential construction. The wood can be sourced from within the province, from other provinces in Indonesia and from wood imports. The question of where to source the wood for reconstruction arose early in the emergency relief phase and has become a complex, dynamic and politically sensitive issue.

This report from the consultancy provides the information collected on wood demand and supply for reconstruction.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/development-and-implementation-wood-procurement-plan-post-tsunami-reconstruction-indonesia>

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Shelter housing durable solution

Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit (2004)

Key terms:
prefabricated
houses

Eight years after the war ended, Bosnia-Herzegovina remains confronted with the problem of displaced persons (DPs). Main objective of the ongoing DuSoCC program is to provide durable housing solution for CC residents by creation of accommodation through reconstruction or rehabilitation of destroyed or damaged private houses (mainly in rural areas) and social apartments in urban areas.

Confronted with numerous cases of completely destroyed potential rehab-objects, the DuSoCC program management decided to solve the problem in Jablanica-Slatina with a prefab shelter program, because these housing elements were locally available.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/dusocc-promo-doo-donji-vakuf-prefabricated-houses>

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Transitional shelter standards 10b (Draft)

Shelter Centre (2010)

Key terms:
transitional
shelter, common
standards,

Although local solutions are preferred, the urgent and large-scale need following major conflicts and disasters can often overwhelm local construction and materials capacities, creating the necessity for a family shelter solution that can be stockpiled and airlifted. In the humanitarian community, this need has so far been met largely by canvas tents.

This current stockpiled hot and cold family shelter capacity presents challenges for procurement, stockpiling and logistics, especially given the weight of tents and their susceptibility to degradation resulting from rotting and ultraviolet light, both in storage and when deployed.

Numerous alternative designs available present innovations, based upon varying awareness of field conditions.

Suppliers have requested clear standards and indicators from the international community of shelter requirements, so that they may engage productively in research and development.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/transitional-shelter-standards-10b>

4.5



Coordination

Coordination: manage implementation activities and inform strategic planning process

Coordination is necessary to ensure that all the decisions planned and implemented in the strategy supported by this chapter are undertaken in a timely, appropriate, legal, and safe manner and managed correctly throughout the response.



Shelter After Disaster makes reference to three guidelines on coordination (95, 96, 97) and uses a case study from Aceh (25) to show project coordination in practice.

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Older people in disasters and humanitarian crises: Guidelines for best practice

HelpAge International, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2008)

Key terms:
cross-cutting
issues;
vulnerable
groups; age;
gender; best
practice

These Guidelines for best practice are based on wide-ranging new research from Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas and many years' global disaster experience. They aim to help relief agencies meet the special needs of older people in emergencies. While older people are commonly accepted as being a vulnerable or potentially vulnerable group, at present very little is done to meet their particular needs, or to recognise their unique capacities and contributions. Humanitarian interventions often ignore older people's special needs, using systems that discriminate against them and, on occasion, undermine their capacity to support themselves. The guidelines give examples of key approaches and actions that could help the humanitarian community reduce the vulnerability associated with ageing. They also suggest ways to enhance the capacities and contribution of older people in emergencies. The guidelines also explore the wider issues relating to older people in humanitarian crises. These range from globally agreed principles of social and civil practice and global demographic changes, to the physical impact of the ageing process, common images and assumptions held about older people, the key problems they face, and the gender dimensions of their needs.

PDF document can be downloaded from:
<http://sheltercentre.org/library/older-people-disasters-and-humanitarian-crises-guidelines-best-practice>

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Impact measurement and accountability in emergencies: the good enough guide

Oxfam GB (2007)

Key terms:
accountability;
impact
measurement;
feedback loop;
how-to tools

What difference are we making? How do we know? The Good Enough Guide helps busy field workers to address these questions. It offers a set of basic guide-lines on how to be accountable to local people and measure programme impact in emergency situations. Its 'good enough' approach emphasises simple and practical solutions and encourages the user to choose tools that are safe, quick, and easy to implement. This pocket guide presents some tried and tested methods for putting impact measurement and accountability into practice throughout the life of a project. It is aimed at humanitarian practitioners, project officers and managers with some experience in the field, and draws on the work of field staff, NGOs, and inter-agency initiatives, including Sphere, ALNAP, HAP International, and People In Aid.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/impact-measurement-and-accountability-emergencies-good-enough-guide>



"Where's my house"? - Improving communication with beneficiaries: an analysis of information flow to tsunami affected populations in Aceh province

Imogen Wall, based on research by the UN-OCHA Public Information Working Group (2005)

Key terms:
communication
with
beneficiaries;
information flow

This report and the survey which it analyses were developed as an answer to concerns expressed by those working with tsunami affected populations that nothing was known about how communities were accessing information, the effectiveness of the channels available and the extent to which they were actually being used by those working in tsunami relief. The PI group designed a simple qualitative survey which could be taken out into the field on site visits and completed in the course of normal work duties. A total of 82 communities across 12 districts in Aceh were surveyed. This report is the result of that research.

The central lessons of the survey are clear. Firstly, it confirms what was already known: that there is a serious lack of information about reconstruction flowing to affected communities which is having a material impact on their ability to

recover from the tsunami. On the positive side, though, another finding of this research is that improving information flow is not necessarily a complex or expensive process.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/wheres-my-house-improving-communication-beneficiaries>



Lessons from Aceh: key considerations in post-disaster reconstruction

Jo da Silva / Practical Action (2010)

Key terms:
lessons learned;
good practice

Post-disaster reconstruction is a complex process. It requires multi-sectoral involvement, very significant resources and a wide range of skills. Many of these skills are not typically available within humanitarian organisations. For a humanitarian agency, the decision to engage in reconstruction (and what type of assistance to provide) needs to be taken cognisant of the complexities and must recognise the need for expert advice. At the outset of the tsunami response, there was limited specific guidance readily available to provide a framework for reconstruction. This, combined with lack of institutional knowledge and poor coordination between agencies, meant that most implementing agencies climbed a steep learning curve.

PDF document can be downloaded from:

<http://sheltercentre.org/library/lessons-aceh-key-considerations-post-disaster-reconstruction>

Needs assessments provide the essential information required for the planning and implementation of programmes and projects, and the participation of all stakeholders again plays a crucial role in program success. This chapter included a document that critically examines the realities of community participation in housing reconstruction projects (57).

Transitional settlement is one response option for displaced populations, and this form of assistance is well elaborated in a series of publications, which explain the underlining principles, criteria to be met, planning and upgrading guidelines, quality standards.

Requirements for disaster risk reduction and focus on 'building back better' are once again evident. A selection of publications

offers specifications of hazard resistant and earthquake resistant construction, or instructions for the construction of cyclone/ tsunami resistant shelters.

Handbooks and practical guidance are listed providing requirements and instructions for reconstruction, rebuilding and retrofitting in a culturally sensitive context; a number of case studies provide examples of region specific practices or recommendations.

Particular focus was given to planning, use and specifications of building materials, together with guidance for their procurement and logistics. Further, the instructions for safe disposal and health hazards related to building materials are addressed.

Examples of other types of assistance include distribution of non-food items, shelter non-tent items and cash assistance.

Cross-cutting issues covered under this chapter include impact measurement and accountability in emergencies, inclusion of vulnerable groups, and communication channels for dissemination of information to affected communities. A case study offers lessons learned from tsunami response in recent major emergency assistance operation.

The amount of written material addressing implementation methods is too extensive to be fully represented in this publication. Effort was made to give an insight into the most recent trends, methods and best practices, but there are many more region specific requirements, problems and examples available. We would therefore like to invite the readers to continue their research in our on-line library (www.sheltercentre.org/library) or contact us at Shelter Centre with your questions.

Internet resources

Adapted from `Shelter after disaster`, UN, DFID, Shelter Centre (2010)

Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action (ALNAP)

www.alnap.org

All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI)

www.southasiadisasters.net

Alternatives: Global, Local, Political

https://www.rienner.com/title/Alternatives_Global_Local_Political

Asia Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC)

www.adpc.net

Asian Disaster Reduction Centre (ADRC)

www.adrc.or.jp/top.php

Benfield UCL Hazard Research Centre

www.benfieldhrc.org

Brookings-Bern Project on Internal Displacement

<http://www.brookings.edu/projects/idp.aspx>

Central Emergency Respond Fund (CERF)

<http://ochaonline.un.org/cerf/>

Centre on Housing Rights and Eviction (COHRE)

www.cohre.org

Cluster Coordination

www.clustercoordination.org

Department for International Development

<http://www.dfid.gov.uk/>

Disaster Assessment Portal

www.disasterassessment.org

Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

www.eclac.org

The Emergency Events Database (EM-DAT)

www.em-dat.net

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

www.fao.org

GeoHazards International

www.geohaz.org

German Institute for Disaster Medicine and Emergency Medicine

<http://www.disaster-medicine.de/>

Emergency Shelter Cluster

<http://www.sheltercluster.org/default.aspx>

Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery




www.gfdr.org


Good Humanitarian Donorship Initiative (GHD) www.goodhumanitarianandonorship.org
Groupe Urgence Réhabilitation Développement www.urd.org
Haiti Regeneration Initiative http://haiti.ciesin.columbia.edu/
Help Age International http://www.helpage.org/
Humanitarian Accountability Partnership – International (HAP-I) www.hapinternational.org/en/
Humanitarian Information Centres www.humanitarianinfo.org
Humanitarian Reform www.humanitarianreform.org
Information and Research for Reconstruction www.grif.umontreal.ca/pages/irecpublicns.html
Inter-Agency Standing Committee http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/
Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC) www.internal-displacement.org
International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) www.ifrc.org
International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) www.iied.org
International Recovery Platform (IRP) www.recoveryplatform.org
Multidonor Fund www.multidonorfund.org
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Vulnerability Assessment Techniques and Applications (VATA) www.csc.noaa.gov/vata/
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees http://www.unhcr.org
One Response www.oneresponse.info
Overseas Development Institute www.odi.org.uk
Pacific Disaster Center www.pdc.org
Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) www.paho.org

ProVention Consortium www.proventionconsortium.org
PreventionWeb www.preventionweb.net
ReliefWeb www.reliefweb.int
Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre www.climatecentre.org
Shelter Centre www.sheltercentre.org ; www.shelterlibrary.org
The Sphere Project www.sphereproject.org
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) www.undp.org
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) http://www.unesco.org
United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) www.unep.org
UN-Habitat www.unhabitat.org
United Nations Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP) www.unhabitat.org/categories.asp?catid=282
United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction (UN/ISDR) www.unisdr.org
United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN/OCHA) http://ochaonline.un.org
UNNATI – Organisation for Development Education http://www.unnati.org
US Geological Survey (USGS) Earthquake Hazards Program http://earthquake.usgs.gov
US Geological Survey (USGS) Landslide Hazards Program http://landslides.usgs.gov
US Geological Survey (USGS) Volcano Hazards Program http://volcanoes.usgs.gov
World Bank http://www.worldbank.org/
World Health Organisation http://www.who.int
World Housing Encyclopedia www.world-housing.net

Glossary of terms

Taken from `Shelter after disaster`, UN, DFID, Shelter Centre (2010)


Terms	Definition
Accountability	The state of being accountable; liability to be called on to render an account.
Aftershocks	Earthquakes that follow the largest shock of an earthquake sequence. They are smaller than the main shock and occur within a distance of one to two rupture lengths from the main shock. Aftershocks can continue over a period of weeks, months or years. In general, the larger the main shock, the larger and more numerous the aftershocks, and the longer they will continue (USGS, http://earthquake.usgs.gov).
Apartment owner-occupier 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the transitional reconstruction option where the occupant owns their apartment, a self-contained housing unit that occupies only part of a building, formally or informally.
Apartment tenant 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the transitional reconstruction option where the apartment is rented by the occupant, formally or informally.
Assessment 	The survey of a real or potential disaster to estimate the actual or expected damages and to make recommendations for prevention, preparedness, response, and reconstruction.
Assistance methods	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the variety of material or service contributions that are combined and offered to beneficiaries in implementing a transitional settlement or reconstruction project.
Baseline data	The initial information collected during an assessment, including facts, numbers, and descriptions that permit comparison with the situation that existed before and measurement of the impact of the project implemented.
Basic needs	The items that people need to survive. This can include safe access to essential goods and services such as food, water shelter, clothing, health care, sanitation, and education.
Biological disaster	Disaster event caused by exposure of living organisms to germs and toxic substances.
Build Back Better	Approach to reconstruction that aims to reduce vulnerability and improve living conditions, while also promoting a more effective reconstruction process.


Building code	A set of ordinances or regulations and associated standards intended to control aspects of the design, construction, materials, alteration, and occupancy of structures necessary to ensure human safety and welfare, including resistance to collapse, damage, and fire.
Building inspection	Inspections necessary to establish whether a damaged structure poses an immediate threat to life, public health, or safety, usually accompanied by a process of tagging.
Capacity development or capacity building	The process by which the capacities of people, organisations, and society are strengthened to achieve social and economic goals, through improvement of knowledge, skills, systems, and institutions.
Capacity	The combination of all physical, institutional, social, and/or economic strengths, attributes, and resources available within a community, society, or organisation that can be used to achieve agreed-upon goals. Also includes collective attributes such as leadership and management.
Cash approach (CA)	Unconditional financial assistance for housing reconstruction without technical support.
Cash transfers	Direct payments or vouchers to provide resources to affected populations to carry out housing reconstruction, in exchange for work on infrastructure projects, or for other purposes.
Civil society organization (CSO)	National and local nongovernmental and not-for-profit organisations that express the interests and values of their members and/or others based on ethical, cultural, political, scientific, religious, or philanthropic considerations.
Climate change	Meteorological changes attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alter the composition of the global atmosphere or to natural climate variability.
Collective centres 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes a transitional settlement option, consistent with the following definition. Collective centres, also referred to as mass shelters, are usually transit facilities located in pre-existing structures, such as community centres, town halls, gymnasiums, hotels, warehouses, disused factories and unfinished buildings. They are often used when displacement occurs inside a city, or when there are significant flows of displaced people into a city or town (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Community	A group of households that identify themselves in some way as having a common interest, bond, values, resources, or needs as well as physical space. A social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality, share government, and often have a common cultural and historical heritage.




Community participation	A process whereby stakeholders can influence development by contributing to project design, influencing public choices, and holding public institutions accountable for the goods and services they provide; the engagement of affected populations in the project cycle (assessment, design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation).
Community-based organisations (CBOs)	Organisations whose principal concerns are the welfare and development of a particular community. CBOs may not represent all the households in a particular area.
Community-driven reconstruction (CDR)	Approach to reconstruction that entails varying degrees of organized community involvement in the project cycle, generally complemented by the assistance of the agency that provides construction materials, financial assistance, and/or training.
Complaint mechanisms	Mechanisms that allow corruption to be reported by social actors, including public employees, ideally in a confidential manner.
Complex disasters	Multidimensional events of long duration often spawned by human-generated events, such as war and civil strife.
Complex emergency	A humanitarian crisis in a country, region or society where there is total or considerable breakdown of authority resulting from internal or external conflict and which requires an international response that goes beyond the mandate or capacity of any single agency and/or the ongoing United Nations country programme (IASC, from www.unisdr.org).
Construction guidelines or standards	A document prepared by recognised standard-setting organisation that prescribes methods and materials for the safe use and consistent performance of specific technologies; sometimes developed by consensus of users.
Contour planning	An approach to the layout and development of settlements, including the planned and self-settled camps of refugees and IDPs, that follows or reflects the topography of the site (Corsellis and Vitale, forthcoming 2008).
Corruption	The misuse of an entrusted position for private gain by employing bribery, extortion, fraud, deception, collusion, and money-laundering, including gains accruing to a person's family members, political party, or institutions in which the person has an interest.
Critical services	Services required to be maintained in the event of a disaster include power, water, sewer and wastewater, communications, education, emergency medical care, and fire protection/emergency services.



Damage assessment	The process utilised to determine the magnitude of damage caused by a disaster or emergency event.
Demolition	Destruction of damaged structures to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ eliminate an immediate threat to lives, public health, safety, and improved public or private property or ▶ ensure the economic recovery of the affected community to the benefit of the overall community.
Disaster	Any natural or man-made event causing much suffering, distress or loss, e.g. earthquake, drought, flood, fire, hurricane, tornado, tidal wave, explosion, epidemic (UN-Habitat, 1992).
Disaster contingency planning	A process that results in an organised, planned and coordinated course of action to be followed in case of an accident or disaster that threatens society or the environment. Such plans clearly identify the institutional and organisational arrangements that come into play in the event of a disaster that disrupts the usual coping mechanisms of communities and societies (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Disaster debris	Waste items such as trees, woody debris, sand, mud, silt, gravel, building components and contents, wreckage, vehicles, and personal property that remain after a disaster.
Disaster response	Process to address the immediate conditions that threaten the lives, economy, and welfare of a community.
Disaster risk	The magnitude of potential disaster losses (in lives, health status, livelihoods, assets and services) in a particular community or group over some time period arising from its exposure to possible hazard events and its vulnerabilities to these hazards.
Disaster risk management	The systematic process of using administrative decisions, organisation, operational skills and capacities to apply strategies, policies and coping capacities of the society and communities to lessen the impacts of natural hazards and related environmental and technological disasters. This comprises all forms of activities, including structural and non-structural measures to avoid (prevention) or to limit (mitigation and preparedness) adverse effects of hazards (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).

Disaster risk reduction (disaster reduction)	A disaster risk reduction framework is composed of the following elements, as described by the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction and the Hyogo Framework for Action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ policies, institutions and national plans: to ensure that disaster risk reduction is a national and a local priority with a strong institutional basis for implementation; ▶ risk identification: to assess, map and monitor disaster risks (hazard and vulnerability/ capacity analysis) and enhance early warning, including forecasting, dissemination of warnings, preparedness measures and reaction capacities; ▶ risk awareness and knowledge development through education, training, research and information sharing to build a culture of resilience at all levels; ▶ reduce the underlying risk factors and apply disaster reduction measures in different related domains, such as environmental management, land-use and urban planning, protection of critical facilities, application of science and technology, various forms of partnership and networking, and the use of financial instruments; ▶ and strengthen disaster preparedness to reduce the impact of disaster and ensure effective response at all levels. (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008.)
Dispersed settlement	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the three transitional settlement options of host families, rural self-settlement and urban self-settlement that are available to populations displaced by conflicts or natural disasters. Scattered, isolated groups of houses often in rural areas (UN-Habitat, 1992).
Displaced populations	Persons who, for different reasons or circumstances, have been compelled to leave their homes. They may or may not reside in their country of origin, but are not legally regarded as refugees (UNDHA, 1992).
Durable solutions	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes the point at which permanent settlement and shelter for both displaced and non-displaced populations have been rebuilt and established, sufficient for communities to support their own livelihoods.


Early recovery	A process which seeks to catalyse sustainable development opportunities by generating self-sustaining processes for post-crisis recovery. It encompasses livelihoods, shelter, governance, environment, and social dimensions, including the reintegration of displaced populations, and addresses underlying risks that contributed to the crisis.
Early-warning system	The set of capacities needed to provide timely and meaningful information to enable individuals, communities, and organisations threatened by hazards to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce loss of life, injury, livelihoods, damage to property and damage to the environment.
Earthquake 	A sudden motion or trembling caused by a release of strain accumulated within or along the edge of earth's tectonic plates.
Economic security	Conditions that allow a household or community to meet its essential economic needs in a sustainable way without resorting to strategies which are damaging to livelihoods, security, and dignity.
Emergency services	The set of specialised agencies that have responsibility to serve and protect people and property in emergency situations.
Emergency phase	Although not defined formally, for the purposes of these guidelines this term describes the period immediately following a disaster during which those members of the affected population who have not been displaced will be living in homes which have damage to varying degrees and who have varying requirements to ensure their survival and wellbeing.
Empowerment	Authority given to an institution or organisation (or individual) to determine policy and make decisions. Inclusion of people who are ordinarily outside of the decision making process.
Environmental degradation	The rules and regulations, both national and local, which provide a supportive environment for a specific activity, such as community participation or DRM, to take place.
Environmental impact assessment	The process by which the environmental consequences of a proposed project or program are evaluated, undertaken as an integral part of planning and decision-making processes with a view to limiting or reducing the adverse impacts of the project or program.
Equity	The quality of being impartial and "fair" in the distribution of development benefits and costs and the provision of access to opportunities for all.


Erosion	The washing away of soil and rocks along streams and hillsides on public and private property. Erosion may cause a threat to health, safety, and the environment.
Exposure	The experience of coming into contact with an environmental condition or social influence that has a harmful or beneficial effect.
Family plot	A small piece of land allocated to an individual family for their own management (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Flood 	A general and temporary condition of partial or complete inundation of normally dry land areas from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ the overflow of inland or tidal waters, ▶ the unusual and rapid accumulation or runoff of surface waters from any source, or ▶ mudflows or the sudden collapse of shoreline land.
Floodplain	A floodplain is flat or nearly flat land adjacent to a stream or river that stretches from the banks of its channel to the base of the enclosing valley walls and experiences flooding during periods of high discharge.
Geographic Information System (GIS)	A computer system for the input, editing, storage, retrieval, analysis, synthesis, and output of location-based (also called geographic or geo-referenced) information. GIS may refer to hardware and software, include data.
Geological hazard	Geological process or phenomenon that may cause loss of life, injury, and other health impacts, property damage, loss of livelihoods and services, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation.,
Geo-referenced (or geo-spatial) information	Data, photos, or videos referenced geographically (for or by GIS) relating to earth's physical features and attributes such as latitude, longitude, or locality/jurisdiction. Can be used to assess damage, map hazards, identify natural and materials resources and critical infrastructure at risk, plan restoration, monitor progress, and evaluate results on maps using a GIS.
Grouped settlement	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the three transitional settlement options of collectives centres, self-settled camps and planned camps that are available to populations displaced by conflicts or natural disasters.

Hazard	<p>A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.</p> <p>Hazards can include latent conditions that may represent future threats and can have different origins: natural (geological, hydro meteorological and biological) or induced by human processes (environmental degradation and technological hazards). Hazards can be single, sequential or combined in their origin and effects. Each hazard is characterised by its location, intensity, frequency and probability (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).</p>
Hazard mapping	The process of establishing geographically where and to what extent particular hazards are likely to pose a threat to people, property, or the environment.
Hazardous materials (HAZMAT)	Any substance or material that, when involved in an accident and released in sufficient quantities, poses a risk to people's health, safety, and/or property. Includes explosives, radioactive materials, flammable liquids or solids, combustible liquids or solids, poisons, oxidises, toxins, and corrosive materials.
Host families 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes a transitional settlement option, consistent with the following definition, 'sheltering the displaced population within the households of local families, or on land or in properties owned by them' (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
House owner occupier 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the transitional reconstruction option where the occupier owns their house and land or is in part-ownership, such as when repaying a mortgage or loan. Ownership may be formal or informal.
House tenant 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the transitional reconstruction option where the house and land are rented by the occupant formally or informally.
Household	The immediate physical environment, both within and outside of buildings, in which families and households live and which serves as shelter.
Housing	Lodging or shelter for human habitation. The immediate physical environment, both within and outside of buildings, in which families and households live and which serves as shelter. Also, a government project to provide shelter to low-income groups (UN-Habitat, 1992).
Housing standard	Level of quality of a dwelling generally linked with the social level of residents (including size, location, architecture, cost, workmanship quality).


Influx	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes the number of displaced people arriving at a certain point at a given time.
Informal owner occupier	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the transitional reconstruction option where the occupant owns their house, but has no formal land ownership.
Indicator 	Quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable means to measure achievement or to reflect the changes connected to an operation.
Inflation	An increase in the supply of currency or credit relative to the availability of goods and services, resulting in higher prices and a decreased in the purchasing power of money.
Infrastructure	Systems and networks by which public services are delivered, including: water supply and sanitation; energy and other utility networks; and transportation networks for all modes of travel, including roads and other access lines.
Internally displaced persons (IDPs)	Persons displaced from their habitual place of residence by disaster, fear of persecution or fear of physical harm, but remaining within the territorial limits of their country of origin. Like refugees, IDPs have no internationally defined legal status (DFID, 2003).
Land tenant 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the transitional reconstruction option where the house is owned, but the land is rented.
Land use planning	<p>The process undertaken by public authorities to identify, evaluate, and decide on different options for the use of land areas, including consideration of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ long-term economic, social and environmental objectives; ▶ the implications for different communities and interests groups; and ▶ the subsequent formulation and promulgation of plans that describe the permitted or acceptable uses. (See 'physical planning'.)
Landslide	Downwards movement of a slope and materials under the force of gravity.
Lifelines	Public facilities and systems that provide basic life support services such as water, energy, sanitation, communications, and transportation.
Liquefaction	Process by which water-saturated sediment temporarily loses strength and acts as a fluid. This effect can be caused by earthquake shaking (USGS, http://earthquake.usgs.gov).


Livelihoods	The ways in which people manage their lives in order to access the resources that they need, individually and communally, such as food, water, clothing and shelter (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Local infrastructure	The facilities of a local or host population to meet their communal needs, such as schools, hospitals, water-distribution systems, electricity grids, market services, roads and bridges (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Logical framework (logframe)	A conceptual tool used to define project, program, or policy objectives, expected causal links in the results chain, including inputs, processes, outputs, outcomes, and impact. It identifies potential risks as well as performance indicators at each stage in the chain.
Loss assessment	Analyses the changes in economic flows that occur after a disaster and over time, valued at current prices.
Management information systems	ICT-base systems used to analyse related past, present, and predictive information in conjunction with operational methods and processes to help post-disaster initiatives run efficiently.
Market analysis	Research undertaken to understand how a market functions, how a crisis has affected it, and the need for and most appropriate form of support. Research can include information on supply and demand of goods and services, price changes, and income/salary data.
Mass shelter	See 'collective centres'.
Metadata	Information about data, such as content, source, vintage, accuracy, condition, projection, responsible party, contact phone number, method of collection, and other characteristics or descriptions.
Meteorological disaster	Disaster event caused by short-lived/small to meso-scale atmospheric processes (in the spectrum for minutes to days)
Microfinance	A broad range of small-scale financial services (such as deposits, loans, payment services, money transfers, and insurance) to poor and low-income households and their micro enterprises.
Mitigation	Any structural measures (such as physical flood defences and reinforcement of infrastructures) or non-structural measures (such policies and regulations in terms of building codes, land use, community knowledge planning and behaviour) undertaken to limit the adverse impact of natural or other hazards, environmental degradation, or potential disaster losses (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Morphology	The size, form and structure of an object (such as a house).


National platform for disaster risk reduction	A generic term for national mechanism for coordination and policy guidance on disaster risk reduction that are multifactorial and inter-disciplinary in nature, with public, private and civil society participation involving all concerned entities within a country.
Natural hazards	Natural processes or phenomena occurring in the biosphere that may constitute a damaging event. Natural hazards can be classified by origin namely: geological, hydrometeorological or biological. Hazardous events can vary in magnitude or intensity, frequency, duration, area of extent, speed of onset, spatial dispersion and temporal spacing (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Needs assessment	A process for estimating (usually based on a damage assessment) the financial, technical, and human resources needed to implement the agreed-upon programs of recovery, reconstruction, and risk management. It evaluates and 'nets out' resources available to respond to disaster.
Non-governmental organisation (NGO)	A nonprofit, voluntary, service-oriented, and/or development-oriented organisation, operated either for the benefit of its members or of other members, such as an agency. Also, civil society organisation (CSO).
Non-food item	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the basic goods and supplies required to enable families to meet personal hygiene needs, prepare and eat food, provide thermal comfort and build, maintain or repair shelters (adapted from The Sphere Project, 2004).
Occupancy with no legal status	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes the transitional reconstruction option where the occupant occupies property without the explicit permission of the owner. 
Open source	Nonproprietary software code and applications developed by a community of interested developers and made freely available (without a license) for use and further development. For example, Linux and many Google applications.
Owner-driven reconstruction (ODR)	A reconstruction approach in which the homeowner undertakes rebuilding with or without external financial, material and technical assistance.
Participatory assessment	An approach to assessment that combines participatory tools with conventional statistical approaches intended to measure the impact of humanitarian assistance and development projects on people's lives.


Physical planner	The UNHCR term for an aid worker specialising in temporary settlement and shelter, and specifically the layout of camps [supported temporary settlements]; also termed 'site planner' and 'camp planner' (UNHCR, 2002).
Plan	A plan is a report which presents a detailed course of action in response to a profile. It should identify which organisation is to undertake which particular activity, and over what period. Plans must be constantly revised, both through monitoring processes and through integration with other plans at different planning levels (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Planned camps 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes a transitional settlement option, consistent with the following definition. 'Planned camps are places where displaced populations find accommodation on purpose-built sites, and a full services infrastructure is provided' (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Post-disaster needs assessment (PDNA)	Usually a rapid, multi-sectoral assessment that measures the impact of disasters on the society, economy and environment of the disaster-affected area.
Prefabricated shelters	Shelters made in separate parts which need to be assembled on site upon delivery (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Preparedness	Activities and measures taken in advance to reduce or avoid possible damages from potential or impeding threats and to be ready to assist those who have been adversely affected by a disaster and need help beyond their coping mechanisms. This includes the issuance of timely and effective early warnings and the temporary evacuation of people and property from threatened locations (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Prevention	Activities to provide outright avoidance of the adverse impact of hazards and means to minimise related environmental, technological and biological disasters. Depending on social and technical feasibility and cost/benefit considerations, investing in preventive measures is justified in areas frequently affected by disasters. In the context of public awareness and education, related to disaster risk reduction changing attitudes and behaviour contribute to promoting a 'culture of prevention' (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Probability	A statistical measure of the likelihood that a hazard event will occur.

Profiles	Understanding the social and physical contexts of a conflict, natural disaster, or complex emergency is essential to developing plans of action to implement responses. This understanding must be developed into a 'profile', or an analysis of current circumstances (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Programme plans	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes a series of plans, agreed by all stakeholders, that is consistent with the strategic plan, and that integrates project plans in order to describe programmes that respond to transitional settlement and reconstruction needs.
Project cycle (also "project life cycle")	The sequence of activities that make up a project and how they relate to one another; generally: identification, preparedness, appraisal, presentation and financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
Project plans	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes a series of plans, agreed by all stakeholders, that is consistent with the strategic plan, and that contributes to programme plans that respond to transitional settlement and reconstruction needs.
Pyroclastic flows	Fast-moving avalanches of hot ash, rock fragments and gas that can move down the sides of a volcano during explosive eruptions or when the steep side of a growing lava dome collapses and breaks apart. These pyroclastic flows can be as hot as 1,500 °F (820 °C) and move at speeds of between 100 miles (160 km) per hour and 150 miles (240 km) per hour. Such flows tend to follow valleys and are capable of knocking down and burning everything in their path (USGS, 2000).
Qualitative data	Information based on observation and discussion that can include perceptions and attitudes.
Quantitative data	Numerical information, such as numbers of intended recipients, payments disbursed, cash transferred, or days worked broken down by gender, age and other variables.
Rapid assessment	An assessment that provides immediate information on needs, possible intervention types, and resource requirements. May be conducted as a multi-sectoral assessment or in a single sector or location.
Reception centre	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes places providing clean water, cooked food, non-food items, full medical screening, full registration, and wider assistance and social services to displaced populations.

Reconstruction	Introduced in these guidelines, this term describes the rebuilding of entire communities, including livelihoods, such that they are able to support themselves and have reduced vulnerability to future natural hazards.
Recovery	Decisions and actions taken after a disaster so that survivors are able to re-build their lives and livelihoods in a manner that reduces further exposure to disaster risks. This necessarily includes the organisation of post-disaster interventions from a risk reduction perspective (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Recovery phase	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes the period between the major influx of displaced people and the point when every member of the displaced population has reached a durable solution. For non-displaced populations, and those returning home, it is the period during which reconstruction begins.
Recurrence interval	The time between hazard events of similar size in a given location based on the probability that the given event will be equalled or exceeded in any given year.
Regulatory measures	Legal and other regulatory instruments established by government to prevent, reduce, or prepare for losses, such as those associated with hazard events, such as land use regulations in high-risk zones.
Refugee	Due to the length of the full definition of the term 'refugee', only the key passage is reproduced here. 'For the purposes of the present Convention, the term 'refugee' shall apply to any person who [...] owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of his nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail himself of the protection of that country; or who, not having a nationality and being outside the country of his former habitual residence as a result of such events, is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to return to it' (UNHCR, 1951/1967).
Relief	The provision of assistance or intervention during or immediately after a disaster to meet the life preserving and basic subsistence needs of those people affected. It can be of immediate, short-term or protracted duration (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Relocation 	A process whereby a community's housing, assets and public infrastructure are rebuilt in another location. See 'resettlement'.


Remittances	Payments sent from migrant workers to family members in the country of origin.
Repair 	Restoration to sound condition or working order following decay, damage or partial destruction. Making of additions or alterations as required to restore property to conditions in conformity with standards and specifications (UN-Habitat, 1992).
Resettlement	Actions necessary for the permanent settlement of persons dislocated or otherwise affected by a disaster to an area different from their last place of habitation (UNDHA, 1992).
Residual risk	The risk that remains in unmanaged form, even when effective disaster risk reduction measures are in place and for which emergency response and recovery capacities must be maintained.
Resilience	The ability of a system, community or society potentially exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, adapt to and recover from the stresses of a hazard event, including the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions.
Response	The provision of emergency services and public assistance during or immediately after a disaster to save lives, reduce health impacts ensure public safety and meet the basic subsistence needs of the affected people. See 'recovery'.
Response, programme and project activities	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes the series of activities that make up response, programme and project strategies.
Retrofitting (or upgrading)	Reinforcement of structures to become more resistant and resilient to the forces of natural hazards. Retrofitting involves consideration of changes in the mass, stiffness, damping, load path and ductility of materials, as well as radical changes such as the introduction of energy absorbing dampers and base isolation systems. Examples of retrofitting includes the consideration of wind loading to strengthen and minimise the wind force, or in earthquake-prone areas, the strengthening of structures (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).
Return period	The estimated likelihood of a disaster reoccurring in an area; a series of probable events.

Risk	<p>The possibility of harmful consequences, or expected losses (deaths, injuries, damage to livelihoods property, economic activity disrupted or environment damaged) resulting from interactions between natural or human-induced hazards and vulnerable conditions.</p> <p>Beyond expressing a possibility of physical harm, it is crucial to recognise that risks are inherent or can be created or exist within social systems. It is important to consider the social contexts in which risks occur and that people therefore do not necessarily share the same perceptions of risk and their underlying causes.</p> <p>Conventionally risk is expressed by the notation Risk = Hazards x Vulnerability. Some disciplines also include the concept of exposure to refer particularly to the physical aspects of vulnerability (UN/ISDR, forthcoming 2008).</p>
Risk - acceptable	<p>The definition of acceptable risk, also referred to as 'safe collapse', is used to assess structural and non-structural measures undertaken to reduce possible damage at a level which does not harm people and property, according to codes or 'accepted practice' based, among other issues, on a known probability of hazard (UN/ISDR, 2004).</p>
Risk analysis	<p>A determination of the nature and extent of risk by analysing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that could pose a potential threat or harm to people, property, livelihoods, and the environment on which they depend.</p>
Risk assessment	<p>A methodology to determine the nature and extent of risk by analysing potential hazards and evaluating existing conditions of vulnerability that together could pose a potential threat or harm to people, property, livelihoods, and the environment on which they depend.</p>
Risk management	<p>The systematic approach and practice of managing uncertainty and potential losses through a process of risk assessment and analysis and the development and implementation of strategies and specific actions to control, reduce and transfer risks.</p>
Risk reduction	<p>See 'disaster risk reduction'.</p>
Rural self settlement	<p>For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes a transitional settlement option, consistent with the following definition. 'Rural self-settlement takes place when displaced families settle on rural land that is owned collectively, rather than privately' (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).</p>
	
Satellite imagery	<p>Images captured from above the earth using remote sensing technology.</p>

Secondary hazard	<p>A threat whose potential would be realized as the result of a triggering event that itself constitutes an emergency (for example, dam failure can be a secondary hazard associated with earthquakes).</p>
Self-settled camps	<p>For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes a transitional settlement option, consistent with the following definition. 'A displaced community or displaced groups may settle in camps, independently of assistance from local government or the aid community' (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).</p>
	
Settlement	<p>A community of covered living spaces providing a secure, healthy living environment with privacy and dignity for the groups, families and individuals residing within them (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).</p>
Shelter	<p>A habitable covered living space, providing a secure, healthy living environment with privacy and dignity for the groups, families and individuals residing within it (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Shelter is a critical determinant of survival in the initial stage of an emergency. Beyond survival, shelter is necessary to provide security and personal safety, protection from the climate and enhanced resistance to ill health and disease. It is also important for human dignity and to sustain family and community life as far as possible in difficult circumstances. Shelter and associated settlement and non-food item responses should support communal coping strategies, incorporating as much self-sufficiency and self-management into the process as possible (The Sphere Project, 2004). ▶ Shelter and housing post-disaster are not understood simply as a multiple of family units, but instead consider the context of settlements, impacting the security, society, economy and environment of communities, and of their neighbours. For example, considerations of shelter and housing do not necessarily cover schools or the siting of entire communities away from hazards (UN/OCHA, 2006). ▶ Shelter, adequate: immediate environment for all aspects of family life, providing protection from the elements, secure tenure, personal safety, access to clean water and sanitation, proximity to places of employment and educational and health care facilities (UN-Habitat, 1992).

Shelter non-food item (NFI)	An item that meets a need related to transitional settlement or shelter but is not structural, such as blankets, mattresses, mosquito nets, stoves and fuels (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Siting	In these guidelines, this term describes how and where something is located, usually the land used for a settlement or structure.
Social protection	Public measures to provide income security to the population. Use of social risk management to reduce the economic vulnerability of households and to help smooth consumption patterns.
Squatter	A person occupying an otherwise abandoned housing unit or land without legal title to that unit or land. For example, persons who take up residence in unused or abandoned dwellings or buildings are squatters (UN-Habitat and OHCHR, 2003).
Stakeholders	All those agencies and individuals who have a direct or indirect interest in a humanitarian intervention or development project, or who can affect or are affected by the implementation and outcome of it.
Storm surge	Rise in the water surface above normal water level on the open coast due to the action of wind stress and atmospheric pressure on the water surface.
Storm surges	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes rises in water elevations caused by strong onshore winds pushing water against the coast as severe storms approach. However, the phenomenon of storm surge is also influenced by a variety of other factors including water depth and wave heights.
Strategic plan	Although not defined formally, for the purpose of these guidelines this term describes a single coordinated approach to developing and implementing the contribution of the sector, agreed by all stakeholders and usually maintained at national level by or in partnership with the government. The strategic plan integrates programme and project plans in order to describe the entire response to sector needs.
Subsidence	Lowering of the ground's surface in a particular area due to the removal of subsurface support. In earthquakes this is typically caused by shifting of the subsurface near fault lines.
Sustainable development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Targeting	The identification and recruiting of potential assistance recipients by local communities, government, or external agencies.
Tent	Portable shelter with a cover and a structure (UN/OCHA, 2004).
Transit	Transfer of displaced populations from a border area, front line or hazardous area to a safer location (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Transit centre	Transit centres provide short-term accommodation, usually overnight only, as well as clean water, cooked food, basic medical screening and preliminary registration. There is usually a complete day's travel between one transit centre and another, or between a transit centre and a reception centre. They should be set up on the route from a border or area of conflict to a transitional settlement (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Transitional reconstruction	Introduced in these guidelines, this term describes the processes by which populations affected but not displaced by conflict or natural disasters achieve durable solutions to their settlement and shelter needs.
Transitional settlement	In these guidelines, this term describes the processes by which populations affected and displaced by conflict or natural disasters achieve settlement and shelter throughout the period of their displacement, prior to beginning transitional reconstruction. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Settlement and shelter resulting from conflict and natural disasters, ranging from emergency response to durable solutions (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Transitional shelter	In these guidelines, this term describes family shelter which provides a habitable covered living space and a secure, healthy living environment, with privacy and dignity, for both displaced or non-displaced occupants over the period between a conflict or natural disaster and the completion of transitional reconstruction, that is intended to be relocated, upgraded, or disassembled for materials, and that may be supported as an assistance method. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Shelter which provides a habitable covered living space and a secure, healthy living environment, with privacy and dignity, for those within it, during the period between a conflict or natural disaster and the achievement of a durable shelter solution (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).

Vernacular architecture	The dwellings and other buildings that reflect people's environmental contexts and available resources customarily owner or community built, utilising traditional technologies. Vernacular architecture reflects the specific needs, values, economies and ways of life of the culture that produces them. They may be adapted or developed over time as needs and circumstances change.
Urban self settlement 	For the purposes of these guidelines, this term describes a transitional settlement option, consistent with the following definition. 'Displaced populations may decide to settle in an urban settlement, or in parts of it unaffected by the disaster, occupying unclaimed properties or land, or settling informally' (Corsellis and Vitale, 2005).
Vulnerability	The characteristics of a person or group in terms of their capacity to anticipate, cope with, resist and recover from the impact of a natural or man-made hazard (IFRC, 1999).
Vulnerable groups	Groups or members of groups particularly exposed to the impacts of hazards, such as displaced people, women, the elderly, the disabled, orphans and any group subject to discrimination
Warning systems	Mechanisms used to persuade and enable people and organizations to take actions to increase safety and reduce the impacts of a hazard.

Acronyms

Taken from 'Shelter after disaster', UN, DFID, Shelter Centre (2010)

Acronym	Definition
AC	Alternating Current
ADB	Asian Development Bank
ADPC	Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre
ADRS	Agency-Driven Reconstruction in-Situ
ALNAP	Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action
AME	Assessment, Monitoring, Evaluation
ATC	Applied Technology Council
BCPR	Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
BOQ	Bill of Quantities
CA	Cash Approach
CAP	Consolidated Appeals Process
CBA	Communication-Based Assessment
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CCCM	Camp Coordination and Camp Management
CDR	Community-Driven Reconstruction
CEA	California Earthquake Authority
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CGI	Corrugated Galvanised Iron
CHAP	Common Humanitarian Action Plan
CHF	Community Housing Foundation
CI	Corrugated Iron
CIDA	Canadian International Development Agency
CLA	Cluster Lead Agency
COHRE	Centre On Housing Rights and Evictions
CRS	Catholic Relief Services
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
CWGER	Cluster Working Group on Early Recovery
DaLA	Damage and Loss Assessment
DFID	Department for International Development (UK Government)

DGPS	Differential Global Positioning System
DHA	United Nations Department for Humanitarian Affairs (now UN/OCHA)
DIPECHO	Disaster Preparedness European Community Humanitarian Aid department
DMC	Disaster Management Centre (Wisconsin)
DP	Displaced Person
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EC	European Commission
ECHO	European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMMA	Emergency Market Mapping and Analysis
ENA	Environmental Needs Assessment
ERC	Emergency Relief Coordinator
ESB	Emergency Services Branch
ESC	Emergency Shelter Cluster
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FHH	Female-Headed Household
FI	Food Item
FONDEN	Mexican Fund for Natural Disasters
FTS	Financial Tracking Service
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GCLA	Global Cluster Lead Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
HC	Humanitarian Coordinator
HFA	Hyogo Framework for Action 2005–2015
HIC	Humanitarian Information Centre
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICT	Information and Communication Technologies
ICVA	International Council of Voluntary Agencies
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDRL	International Disaster Response Law

IED	Improvised Explosive Device
IFI	International Financial Institution
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IGO	Inter-Governmental Organisation
IMWiGs	Information Management Working Groups
INGO	International Non-Government Organisation
IO	International Organisation
IOM	International Organization for Migration
IRC	International Rescue Committee
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITU	International Telecommunications Union
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
LENS	Local Estimate of Needs for Shelter and Settlement
LFA	Logical Framework Analysis
LNGO	Local Non-Government Organisation
logframe	Logical framework
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MDTFs	Multi-Donor Trust Funds
MFI	Microfinance Institutions
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
NFI	Non-Food Items
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
ODI	Overseas Development Institute
ODR	Owner-Driven Reconstruction
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PCWG	Protection Cluster Working Group
PDNA	Post Disaster Needs Assessment
PMU	Project Management Unit
REA	Rapid Environmental Assessment
RVA	Rapid Village Assessment
SAG	Strategic Advisory Group
SCHR	Steering Committee for Humanitarian Response
SOF	Strategic Operational Framework

TOR	Terms of Reference
TWiGs	Technical Working Groups
UN	United Nations
UN/ISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction
UN/OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
UNDAC	UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDP/PCPR	United Nations Development Programme Crisis Prevention and Recovery
UNDRO	United Nation Disaster Relief Organisation
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRP	United Nations Housing Rights Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WEF	World Economic Forum
WFP	World Food Programme
WHO	World Health Organization



All publications in this literature review
may be downloaded from:
www.sheltercentre.org/library



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Acronyms

Literature review for SHELTER AFTER DISASTER

This literature review contains a list of references to publications and case studies relevant to the shelter component of humanitarian response following disasters.

It is an open source document proposing preselected relevant information to various stakeholders already involved in shelter process, who are seeking to provide an insight into the shelter component of humanitarian response for all organisations, institutions, private sector representatives, and any individuals interested in joining the effort of providing sustainable assistance in well coordinated response.

This literature review draws profoundly from the 'Shelter after disaster: transitional settlement and reconstruction' guidelines, seeking to complement it with more detailed information, real life examples and practical instructions. However, it should be stated that the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs has not in any way participated in the preparation of this publication.